Rebel

chief

eludes

Yeltsin

ALMAN Raduyev, leader of the "Lone Woif" gang that defied the might of the Russian army, appeared last night to

have escaped after Russia overcame the last pockets of Chechen rebel resistance in the destroyed village of Per-vomayskaya, Dagestan. The 10-day crisis ended as it had begun, in confusion and disbelief. Smirking grimly in the Kremlin, President Boris Yeltsin claimed to have "taught Dudayev a lesson" —

a reference to the Chechen separatist leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev. Mr Yeltsin claimed

82 hostages held by the gang

in the village had been freed and 153 Chechen rebels killed,

with 28 captured. He said 26 Russian soldiers had died. The Russian military also

claimed that dozens of the Chechen gunmen had been killed during an attempted breakout from Pervomays-kaya. Like the other state-

ments, this could not be inde-pendently verified. Foreign journalists were moved away

from the scene on Wednesday General Anatoli Kulikov,

the minister of the interior.

Mr Yeltsin claimed Pervo-

mayskaya was a secret Du-

dayev base, prepared long ago with concrete bunkers,

underground shelters, a net-

work of hidden trenches and tunnels and heavy weapons.

On Wednesday, with only 28 hostages free, the Russian authorities said they were

certain virtually all the

remaining hostages were dead and began an indis-

The Russian security ser-

Turn to page 3, column 4

criminate artillery barrage.

Aid hinges on reform, page 6

een exterminated, ii

is hiding underground."

Art, books and music

Victor Keegan on the end of work

## The world's biggest egos

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## What makes a bestseller?

Plus: Monarchy and matrimony

## Young turn to 'career crime'

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

NEW class of career criminal involving nearly a third of young enerated partly by youth unemployment, ac-cording Home Office research published last night.

The official study challenges the Government's dis-missal of a link between crime and joblessness and warns that for the first time there is a generation of young men who are no longer "growing out of crime" by

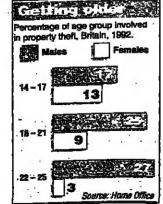
Instead growing numbers of young men in their twenties are becoming involved."

Lack of job prospects in their twenties are becoming involved. are becoming involved in narticulary theft and fraud. By the age of 25 more than 30 per cent of young men are involved in some form of crime - and that excludes illegal drug use or motoring of-fences — and the study says there is no guarantee that they will not go on to a life-time of offending. They do seem to grow out of violence

The report says the lack of a prospect of a job is making it far more difficult for a large section of the younger generation to "grow up" and make the transition to responsible adulthood.

The research, whose findings have been sat on by Home Office ministers for months, is based on 2,500 interviews with young people, aged 14 to 25. It is the first official study of youth crime levels not based on police figures, which do not record un-

The study, Young People and Crime, also "explodes the myth" that young black men generally commit more crime than whites and finds that white teenagers are more in-volved in illegal drugs than their black counterparts.



the quality of the relationship between young people and their parents is seen as a key factor in whether they turn to crime. The researchers observed a higher rate of offending among the children of single parents and step-families. But the study finds only weak relationship between social class and crime. Among measures they advo-cate to help this new genera-tion get out of crime is better

About 40 per cent of black and white young people admitted having committed a crime

compared with 25 per cent of

But its stark conclusion that a new generation of "per-petual adolescents" is emerg-

ing, embedded in a criminal lifestyle fuelled by heavy use of alcohol and drugs, is likely to spark fierce debate.

The Home Office study concludes: "Young men are find-

ing it more difficult and tak-

ing longer to make the

transition to adulthood. But with the declining number of young people in employment, the capacity for the world of work to provide a rite of pas-

of the problem, but the Home

other factors. In particular

Office researchers pinpoil

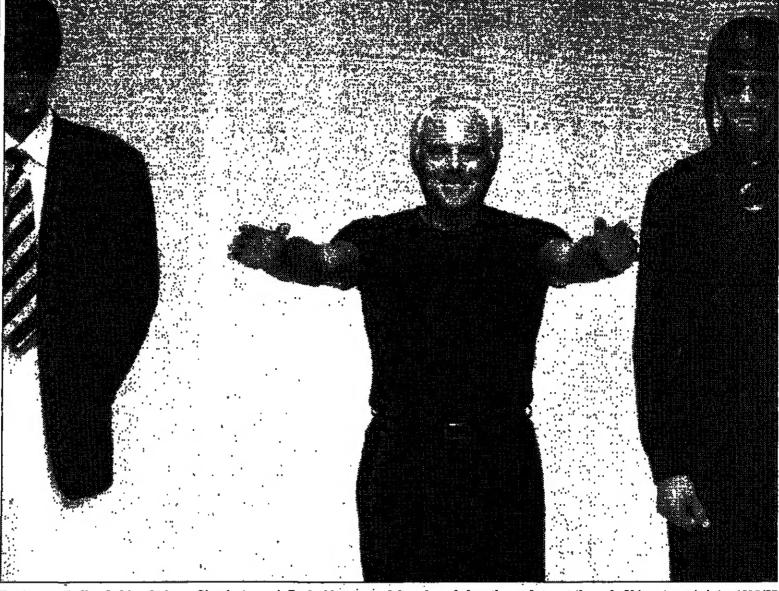
Asian youngsters.

preparation for early father hood, classes for parents of teenagers, and temporary nousing, training and a job. The research confirms that

involvement in crime and drug abuse is widespread among those under 25. It shows half of boys and a third of girls have been involved in thefts or violent crime. Similar numbers admit using drugs at some time.

It also surprisingly shows that teenage girls are nearly as likely as boys to be involved in crime. Twenty four per cent of 14- to 17-year-old boys have committed at least one crime other than drug use. For those aged 22 to 25 the figure rises to 31 per cent. For girls the 19 per cent of 14to 17-year-olds who have been involved in crime falls to four per cent by the time they reach their mid-20s, though drug use continues at a high

"The research shows that female offenders who com-plete their education, leave home, set up their own independent lifestyle and begin to form families of their own have a high chance of giving up crime. For male offenders, however these life events do not seem to have the same effect," it concludes.



Top togs . . . Italian fashlon designer Giorgio Armani, flanked by two models, acknowledges the applause at the end of his autumn/winter 1996/97 confirmed that his forces were still looking for Mr Ra-duyev. But Mr Yeltsin was undaunted. "All bandits have men's wear show at Milan yesterday. His latest designs revert to the 1950s and 1970s

## Major offers 'white flag' to right

IT'S THE TORY WAY, WE WAIT FOR A LEADER TO EMERGE...

Promised policy statement may not spare PM fresh defeat ahead of Maastricht review'

HE Cabinet yesterday capitulated to Euro-sceptic pressure for a tougher stand against further European integration when it announced it will issue a white paper on the

But the move may not save John Major from another humiliating Commons defeat ahead of the Maastricht review conference in March. Tory rightwingers warned

last night.
MPs were caught off guard by the Cabinet's unanimous decision to outline what ministers called "our general objectives" for the forthcoming EU conference.

Rightwing Euro-sceptics purred with delight at the concession, which they intend to build on as the white paper is drafted at the Foreign Office in the weeks ahead. Pro-European MPs gave it an early welcome while Labour and the Libera

Democrats jeered at "white flag, white paper" tactics. To add to ministerial discomfort, reports resurfaced that dispirited senior Tory MPs, including unnamed "grandees", are again canvassing ways of replacing the Prime Minister with

leadership contest — the bloodless coup" scenario.

Mr Major was publicly forced to denounce renewed speculation as "nonsense in the past and popsense now". Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the 1922 committee, called the rumours "ludicrous", and one alleged plotter, Sir Archie

Hamilton, told colleagues they was "absolute gibberish". Westminster whispers about one cabinet member, Lord Cranborne, Leader of the Lords, as a potential malcontent stung him into an emphatic statement of loyalty. "T owe the prime minister a great deal, am entirely loyal to him and will continue to be so. I will do whatever I can to help him and the Conservative Party win the next elec-tion," he told the Guardian.

Cabinet allies concurred. In reality most Tory MPs. even malcontents, assume that the leadership issue

tions results are poor. If he did, they concede, all the main contenders, Kenneth Clarke, the "two Michaels" — Heseltine and Portillo — and John Redwood, are currently seen as damaged goods. Leadership plots, however remote, are demoralising for

embattled ministers. But Europe is a much more dan-gerous matter. Many MPs assume that, as before the Maas tricht negotiation in 1991, Mr Major will seek a formal Comremains a statemate, partly mons endorsement for the po-because Mr Major is unlikely sition taken by the white to quit, even if the May elec-

'If they were to lose the vote [on the forthcoming white paper] their European policy would be in tatters.'

stakes across the country. His trademark garb was

dapper sheer shirts, a bow-tie and a velvet-trim collar.

His former wife Eleanora recalled that even his wad

"It's a great loss," said Ms Pires. "He represented

the history of the pool world. Now there aren't

In public one leading sceptic, Bill Cash, welcomed the mons defeat on the EU fishwhite paper. "The Governmeries policy. "If they were to nent is to be congratulated. The move should remove a great deal of uncertainty about the Government's European policy". In private, sceptics warned against soggy language designed to paper over the cracks, and were quick to demand a chance to ebate its contents.

Mr Major and his foreign secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, whose rhetoric is increasingly sceptical, have laid out British resistance to any sweeping extensions of EU competence for the year-long inter-governmental conference (IGC), due to open in Turin on March 29 and to review the workings of the

Maastricht Treaty. Such items as a refusal to extend qualified majority vot-ing (QMV) into such sensitive policy fields as the environment, resistance to greater powers for the EU court, the Strasbourg parliament and the Commission, are relatively easy for Tories to support — the "the lowest common denominator," as Labour's Robin Cook put it last night.

Far trickier for ministers to finesse with sceptics are key Franco-German aims such as the closer integration of for-eign, defence and immigration policy "pillars" and long-term reform of farm, budget and fisheries policies.

A defeat would not bring the government down, or -- Tory Euro-sceptic even change the policy, but would be a far more serious blow to its morale and cohe-

of dollar bills was kept neat, folded and pristine.

lose the vote their European

Mr Major will use a big speech in the Midlands today

to defend the enterprise cul-

ture as having a far broader meaning for individual suc-

cess than mere business

Sita would be

glad to collect

her water from

a stand pipe

policy would be in tatters,"

one Tory sceptic predicted.

their water from stand pipes and water tankers - and that's Because, for many people in the developing world,

DAlanca Taba Diffrage traves present need O com's spaces of a child nose, but auctions a giff at:
O com O com O com O com Make chappedPOs povethe to ACTIONALD and send to ACTIONALD, FREEFCST

#### America mourns the passing of Minnesota Fats, and with him the world of shady pool room operators

Jonathan Freedland

AMERICA'S pool players were last night mourning the game's greatest name, after the death of the man they called The Hustler — Minnesota Fats.

A dandy dresser whose skill and shrewdness took him from the seedy pool halls of New York to Hollywood fame, Minnesota Fats — woman for the Billiard son in the 1961 movie The Hustler — contrary to the widespread belief that the widespread belief that the character had been based on him. Wanderone had been known as New York Fats or Triple-Smart Fats —

ville yesterday, apparently from congestive heart failure. He was 83. Once called the Muhammad Ali of pool, Minnesota Fats was more admired for

his flamboyance than his raw ability. "He was never

with Minnesota. He simply merged his identity with the Minnesota Fats charac-ter played by Jackie Glea-son in the 1961 movie The Hustler — contrary to the

died at his home in Nash- | Congress of America. | in honour of his bulk and | without rival, winning high His real name was Rudolph Wanderone, and he had little connection with Minnesota Fats never drank or smoke. The drank or smoke. The reason was simple: "I never took the first drink."

His bravado was enough to scare off the competi-tion. He once said he was the best in the world at five things: cards, pool, talking — and he wouldn't name the other two:

From the 1930s to the 1960s Minnesota Fats was

any of the shady characters." Custure 4 Quick Consessions 15
Acts 6 Cartonis 15



Obituaries 10

Pada 18



#### Sketch

## Howard slips out his vision of of his manacles



Simon Hoggart

THE HOME Secretary made a statement yester day on the shackling of pregnant woman prisoners. The Tories are split on the

issue.
There are those who support the idea that women in labour (or indeed women in New Labour) should be chained up. There are those, on the other hand, who think their new born babies should be manacled as well, just in case they try anything on. After Mr Howard's state-

ment, Jack Straw rose. I'm afraid Mr Straw has not yet learned his lesson. When you have the Home Secretary at your mercy, you should use the surgical approach rathe than the bludgeon.

Imitate the more sophisticated serial killers — don't try to crush his skull; instead, slice him delicately into sepa-rate pieces and boil them up.

to be enjoyed at leisure later. But Mr Straw gets himself into an indignant froth. He can't help it. "Humiliating retreat . . . panic after an ava-lanche of bad publicity . . . public outrage . . . ministerial

bungling," he raved. The motormouth approach doesn't work because there are many Tory backbenchers who are deeply uneasy about Mr Howard and his myriad misjudgments. Ranting gets them off the book, enabling them to join in the general abuse of Mr Straw and so hide

their own misgivings.
But, as ever, Mr Straw
plunged desperately onward. He demanded "a wider apology for the brutal and unnecessary humiliation inflicted

At which point Mr Michael Fabricant shouted: "They are convicted criminals!" Which is true; some are desperadoes who have viciously failed to pay their TV licences.

Conservatives then began again the weird ceremony in which they all take turns to congratulate each other. Given the polls, this may be connected with seppuku, Japanese ritual suicide.

Teresa Gorman (C. Biller-icay) praised Ann Widdecombe, the badger-shaped junior minister who originally got Mr Howard into this mess. "The honesty and open-ness she has displayed in much appreciated by the public - people who are in for crimes should be restrained," she announced, apparently having not listened to a word Mr Howard had said, since the burden of his statement was the exact opposite. "You have, characteristically, made a number of cogent points." Mr Howard oiled back. Perhaps he had not been listening to his statement either.

Mr Fabricant leapt up. "We are not discussing innocent young gals!" he exclaimed. "We are discussing convicted criminals! And we are not talking about balls and chain but light manacles!" Or 'Bondage Lite" as we image

consultants call it. He implied that we need even fiercer fetters. Scold's bridles and ducking stools were too good for these gals.

Jacques Arnold (C. Gravesend) had been let out of his coffin to make a rare daylight more restraints. "They are either convicted criminals or remanded in custody," he croaked, his words emerging in a pale swirl of dust. He abused Emma Nicholson too, and it is true that seeing her in an Alabama chain gang.

breaking rocks, would glad-den many Tory hearts. The most horrible query was from Norman Godman (Lab, Greenock), about a Scot undergo an operation for haemorrhoids manacled to a

prison officer — who was him self masked and gagged." Imagine having your piles sliced off while chained to Hannibal Lecter! There was nothing more to be said, and

Mr Howard Ilnished. Earlier, the Prime Minister nied there was a secret conspiracy to drive him from office. He sounded very confident, but obviously, he would be the last person to know. He is in the position of a man who denies his wife is having an affair, because he can't actually see the bare toes under the

#### First night

## Reincarnation of Wildean insight

Michael Billington An Ideal Husband Theatre Royal, Haymarket

ETER HALL'S superb production of Wilde's An Ideal Husband was first seen at the Globe in 1993. It is now revived, with the original cast virtually intact; a just return since it finds new layers of meaning in a play that has always been seen as an awkward mixture of melodrama and bons mots.

Hall's approach is to treat Wilde's melodrama as farce and his comedy as fundamen-tally serious. The basic plot concerns Mrs Cheveley's at-tempt to blackmail Sir Robert Chiltern, a rising politician, into endorsing a fraudulent Argentinian canal scheme be cause she knows that his own fortune was built on a piece of dishonest insider trading.

There is an eternal topicality about the idea that a moralising politician is a whited sepulchre. There is also some thing eerily prophetic — the play first appeared in 1895 just before Wilde's own downfall — with the obsession with blackmail, scandal and double lives. But Hall shrewdly treats the third act, with its eavesdroppings, mistaken identities and eventual routing of the scheming Mrs Cheveley. as a piece of riotous comedy that allows us to swallow its

creaking contrivances. What makes this a landmark in modern Wilde productions is Hall's uncovering of the author's deep-seated charity and compassion. He does this by treating the Wildean figure of Lord Goring not as the usual vehicle for

epigrams but as a man of extraordinary sanity and kindness. In Martin Shaw's impeccable performance, he reminds me of Baudelaire's observation that "dandyism is the last flicker of heroism in decadent ages". Physically, even down to

the buttonhole, Shaw is almost a reincarnation of Wilde himself; a fleshy figure who looks like a slightly debauched Adonis. But, under the lazy-lidded eyes and the ironic hand-on-hip stance. Shaw reveals Lord Goring's profound humanity. When he tells Lady Chiltern, who places her husband on an impossible pedestal, that "nobody is incapable of doing a foolish thing, nobody is incapable of doing a wrong thing, he reminds us that the art of the dandy is to hide his goodness and wisdom under a

mask of affectation. Shaw's performance is the moral fulcrum on which everything else depends. And it is accompanied by fine work from Anna Carteret as the conniving Mrs Cheveley, from David Yelland as the hollow pillar of public rectitude. Sir Robert Chiltern, and from Penny Downie, the main newcomer to the cast, as his wife. We tend to treat Wilde's

melodramas as dressy charades, all style and no sub-stance. But Hall's production reminds us that Wilde was not writing about the divorce between public and private morality or the Victorian worship of wealth, but about the need for charity and love in human affairs. And given Wilde's tragic fate, the message here acquires a moving resonance. This review appeared in late

editions yesterday .

#### Clarke bonus as lottery tax looks set to take £700m

David Hencke

KENNETH Clarke is temerging as the biggest winner from the National Lottery, with his revenue nearly doubling to \$700 million a year from the game.

Figures from the Inland Revenue reveal the Treasury's take from the lottery in the four months after its launch was

£104 million against an ex-pected £60 million. The Treasury expects to make \$700 mil-

lion a year from the game. The lottery bonus is in sharp contrast to Mr Clarke's two other new taxes. Revenue from air passenger duty was 584 million compared with an expected £105 million. Insurance premium tax brought in £117 million compared with an esti-

## Blair defends stakeholder economy

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

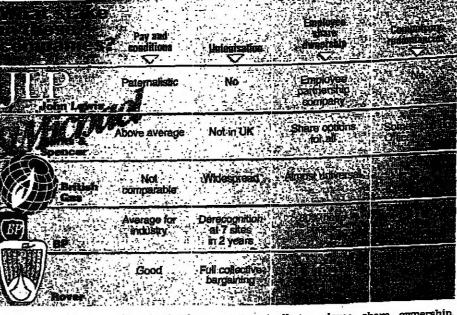
ONY Blair yesterday rejected Tory claims that his vision of a stakeholder economy handed greater power to nnions, corporations or inter-

The Labour leader told a

Derby that he welcomed the way his vision of a stakeholder economy now lay at the heart of the political battlefield, but accused the Tories of clouding the debate. Speaking at his first public meeting since his phrase came to grip political debate, he threw back Tory criticism

of his slogan, arguing: "In the Tory economy, the no stake economy, they do not mind millions in dead end jobs with no career prospects ... They promised the classless society. They delivered a twonation Britain. The stake holder economy is about making us one nation again." He claimed there was already widespread business support for his ideas, citing .000-strong audience in

companies such John Lewis, Rover, Marks and Spencer and BP. He said that several prominent business advisors saw competitiveness and success comes from a stake-holder approach. The great lesson they draw from their research is that companies



In remarks likely to be con

sted with recent interpre tations by union leaders, Mr Blair said: "The stakeholder economy is the key to prepar ing our people and business for vast economic and techno logical change. It is not about giving power to corporations or unions or interest groups. It is about giving power to you, the individual."

The shadow chancellor. Gordon Brown, stressed that

legal reforms may eventually play a role in bringing about a stakeholder economy, but they would not be the starting

Labour also moved to appropriate the Tory vision of an employee/shareholder economy, claiming the Tories had failed to spread share-holding among staff, despite legislation.
Mr Blair was suppported by

a speech from his City spokesman Alistair Darling, who called for a big increase in

He said it would offer both motivation and reward for success. It should no longer be regarded as an optional extra but the norm in a

The importance of secur-

ing participation by the work-force . . . is a major part of the philosophy of stakeholding." Mr Darling said. "That does not need more

laws, more rules or more regulation. Many firms under-



Alistair Darling: favoured cultural, not legal change

stakeholding already, but more is required. What is needed is a change of culture." Social Security Secretary, responded by claiming the num-ber of individual shareholders had increased from 3 million to 10 million under the Conservative govern-

Nine out of 10 employees in BT. British Gas and British Aerospace got shares in their companies. Labour opposed

## 'Nazi' attack kills 10 in Germany

Three held as hostel for asylum-seekers goes up in flames

an Traynor in Bonn

T LEAST 10 immigrants and asylum-seekers died in an inin the north German port of Lübeck yesterday in what appeared to be the worst racist in Germany since the war. Three young neo-Nazis

from eastern Germany were being questioned by police last night on suspicion of murder and arson. They were found within 100 yards of the blase at 4am just after the fire started. Initially stopped by police, they were then brought in for questioning vesterday.

Police said the three males.

aged 16 to 21, at least one of them a skinhead, were "wellknown to them" and that police had seen them driving to the scene before the blaze. If confirmed as an arson attack, the incident would mark by far the worst atrocity in the wave of anti-foreigner violence perpetrated by neo-Nazis in Germany since unification in 1990, more than doubling at a stroke the death toll.

"It's a terrible catastrophe, the worst in our city," said Lübeck's mayor, Michael

Rescue workers expected the death toll to rise. They said that a family with several children resident in the hostel's attic were missing The rescue team was unable to reach the attic because of the danger of collapse of the gutted four-storey building in the town centre. The 10 confirmed dead included four children after a two-year-old girl died in hospital last

She was injured when her mother, clutching the infant, jumped to her death from an ipper storey.

Another 20 people were seriously injured in the inferno which started in the middle of the night and took firefighters four hours to bring under control. Many of them were hurt leaping to

The large, white, turn-of the century house accommodated mainly Africans seeking asylum as well as refuge-seekers from the Middle East and some ethnic Germans from eastern Europe.

Last night grief-stricken. nervous, and angry Lübeck Africans gathered outside the house shell, marching in protest and bearing placards. "We are human beings too," they proclaimed. They were joined by 500 Germans bearing flowers and candles. Sev-



A woman cries in front of the asylum-seekers' home in Lübeck that was set on fire early yesterday morning, killing at least 10 people. Firemen (below) took four hours to control the blaze

PHOTOGRAPHS: CHRISTOF STACHE, MICHAEL PROSST

city of Hamburg. A visibly shaken President Roman Herzog said that if the tragedy was confirmed to be caused by racist violence, he would raise the issue of in-creased police powers. "We will respect the rights of the perpetrators, but we also need to protect the human rights of

the victims."
The speed with which the fire spread and the fact that it broke out in several points at once suggested an arson attack, police said, although they did not rule out a more

innocent cause. Winfried Tabarelli, the Lubeck CID chief, said it was too early to say whether the three Germans would be charged. but the state prosecutors in Schleswig-Holstein said they expected to open an investigation into murder and arson. Police spotted the trio driv-

ing to Lubeck before the fire from the neighbouring state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in what used to be east Ger-many, 30 minutes away by

eral hundred Germans | port best known for its marzimarched in an anti-racist pan and as the native town of demonstration in the nearby the writer Thomas Mann, has suffered some of the most notorious racist attacks of the

past few years.
On the Jewish Passover holiday two years ago, the town's synagogue was fire-bombed in the first attack on a Jewish house of prayer in modern times in Germany. The synagogue was firebombed again last year and letter bombs believed to be sent by neo-Nazis mainly in Austria but also in Germany have also exploded in the

port.
"It's disastrous that Lubeck this after the two synagogue attacks," said Helde Simonis. Social Democrat prime minister of Schleswig-Holstein.

The incident occurred only days after President Ezer Weizman of Israel told a joint session of the German parlia-ment that Germany had to "watch every stirring of racism and smash every stirring age to identify these elements, and tear them up at the roots car. before they grow and Lübeck, a pretty northern flourish."



#### Portillo faces dilemma over strings on big **Gulf arms deal**

David Hirst in Beirut and David Fairhall in London

BILLED as the last great arms deal of the century, a purchase of £4 billion worth of long-range strike aircraft by the United Arab Emirates threatening to entangle Britain in unwelcome military commitments that could involve subjecting British troops to the laws of an Arab

In return for their lucrative contract — denoted in US currency at \$6 billion — the Emirates are demanding not only military support should they come under attack, but jurisdiction over foreign troops on their territory.

France, hoping to sell Mi-rage 2006 or Rafale aircraft, has pledged itself — should it get the contract — to come to the Gulf states' rescue with its 70,000-strong Rapid Reaction Force. UAE officials insist that

Britain match the pact which

the UAE concluded with France in December, both as regards jurisdiction over foreign troops - on which France has met its demands
— and the extent of treaty
commitments to its defence. Britain, currently developing a reaction force of its own, is close to concluding a memorandum of understanding on defence co-operation with the UAE. But the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, who made a flying visit to Abu Dhabi just after Christmas, has balked at putting his troops under foreign law. On the contrary, he said he was. eeking a formula "consistent with the tradition of armed forces being responsible to their own governments when they are in the service of

those governments, even in another country."
The Defence Secretary also faces the dilemma of whether to offer the Emirates refurbished Tornados surplus to RAF requirements or — as British Aerospace and its industrial partners in Germany and Italy would prefer — newly built Tornado GR4 aircraft. These, BAe hopes, would lead to later orders for the Eurosteher. the Eurofighter.

The UAE is said to want 80 whether it can make military use of such a force is doubtful. The United States is bidding for the same order with F-16s (which could also be refurbished surplus aircraft) or F.

15Es.
The aircraft deal is the main prize the three Western allies, anxious to boost their troubled arms industries, are trying to wrest from a Gulf market already saturated with, and increasingly resentful of, superfluous weaponry.

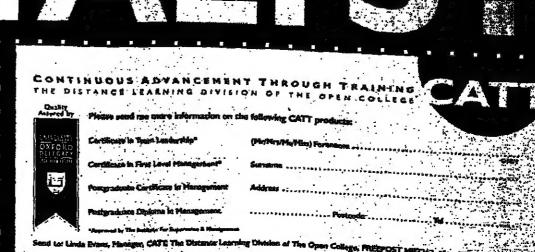
£4bn flight of fancy, page 7

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The Guardian Friday January 19 1996

## Planet Goldilocks a haven for life out there

Is there life

47 Ursae Majoris



Earthlings observe wildlife on Neptune in H. Wesso's Amazing Stories, published in 1929

'If there are creatures there they are going to be short and fat, not long and thin like us. They will be more like crabs than sheep and would move by scuttling sideways'

Tim Radford

Portillo faces

dilemma over

strings on b

Gulf arms de

Card semments

ASTRONOMERS have discovered ing stars 35 light to me one night, this one is years away which just right," Dr Butler said could support the formation of life. Yesterday they christ-ened one of them Goldilocks. The two planets were detected by sophisticated techniques which analysed "wobparent stars 70 Virginis, in the constellation Virgo, and 47 UMa in Ursa Major, the Big | the sun's orbit. Dipper. The find was an Using similar techniques, are Earth-like planets out nounced by Geoffrey Marcy of astronomers had already there. There is nothing

San Francisco State University and researcher Paul Butler at a meeting of astrono mers in San Antonio, Texas. "We have tentatively nicknamed one of these planets

light from the stars. Jupiter, for example, produces a 12.5 metres per second wobble in

yesterday. "I said it must be Goldilocks." No one has actually seen either planet. Their mass and orbit have to be estimated from the shifts in the spectral

tance. So they both are in a region where you would exexist." Dr Butler said. Using similar techniques.

70 Virginis special about Earth. If life can exist arise on one planet claimed two other planet dis-coveries in other constellaaround one star in one galtions. One - orbiting a pulaxy, then it could happen on billions of such planets. sar, or neutron star — could not be a home to any recognisable form of life. Another, But until late last year, no 51 Pegasi, spotted in the Pegasus constellation last year by two Swiss astronomers and one had detected any candidate planets. Now there are two. "After the discovery of

too massive, too close to it's parent star and therefore, at But 70 Vir and 47 UMa are very like the sun. The orbits are not unlike the Earth's about half the Earth-sun dis-tance. One of them orbits at

confirmed by Prof Marcy and

Dr Butler a week later, was the first "solar system-type"

planet to be detected, but was

The real significance of the find may simply be that there are Earth-like planets out out there? Majoris and 70 Virginis could orm on the surface away has revealed a slight 'wobble' in each How it might look If there is water, and If the has evolved the any creatures will have to cope with nassive gravity. '..more like crabs and impets rather than sheep and horses and they would have to stay close to the Where they are?

**URSA MAJOR** 

\$ LEO MINOR

eaping gracefully through the air. Small size with all soft body parts

Vir. It is nine times the mass of Jupiter

The other takes 1100 days to orbit 47

scuttling sideways." But the two astronomers in

entirely reasonable

but the speculation is that the

two new candidates are gas

ous, rather than rocky, more

where it is warm, where liq-

uid water exists and where

you have a whole cauldron of

complex organic chemistry going on," Dr Butler said. Even so, life could be imag-ined. "If the laws of physics

and chemistry are the same

everywhere — and as far as

we can tell, they are - then

that sort of speculation seems

"There is going to be a zone

like Jupiter than Mars.

extremely heavy gravity, so if there are creatures there they are going to be short and fat, not long and thin like us. They will be more like crabs and limpets than sheep and horses and would move by

San Antonio last night had a better bet to place. Gas giants like Saturn and Jupiter also have huge rocky moons. A moon the size of Mars or bigger, orbiting either of the new planets, could have Earth-like gravities and Earth-like athydrogen, carbon. calcium, iron and surprisingly rich in organic chemicals. More than 100 complex chemicals — including alcohol in awesome cluding alcohol i snatchers the aliens turned

#### A brief history of time

ish Nobel

ning chem

Arrhenius

(who also

predicted

he green-

cade or two

the British

ago by Sir

CTRATERRESTRIAL Life has been bothering earthbound scientists for about 2,000 years. Lucretius, the Roman thinker, peculated in De Rerun life might be drifting about in the vastness of space. looking for somewhere to grow. This idea — known as a century ago by the Swed-

house ef-fect) and

Jefferson

Nobody has ever actually seen extraterrestrial life. But that hasn't stopped any one imagining it. In the 18th century Voltaire had a go in the science fiction fable Micromegas. Thomas Jefferson, founding father and president of the United States, believed in life on other planets. Typically, the debate then was about whether such creatures had souls to be saved. In the 20th century, C. S. Lewis imagined beautiful and innocent life on Mars and Venus. The only planet in need of divine

In the late 19th century, things took a pasty turn. olent aliens, and science fic-

redemption was Earth.

tion, with The War of Worlds. They were out to get Us. This was usually They had rendered their planet unimhab-

itable and fresh sup-

up as pods. In the Man Who

turned up as David Bowie.

The other great science fiction theme was a simple reverse. Mankind had ren planet unin-habitable

looking for to spoil. Sometimes superior alien force cold war allegory Childhood's

End, by

Arthur C.

Clarke would take over Earth for its own good\_Sometimes - as in Dan Dare, Star Trek, Flash Gordon, Star Wars space was simply full of warring life forms fighting with lasers or phasers

Attempts to imagine plaus ible alien civilisations usu ally end up with humanoids of a sort. This is because eyes for observing, mouths for talking, bands for wielding tools and legs for locomotion all seem vital for establishing a civilisation. But modern exobiologists

that carbon, hydrogen and oxygen need not be bases for life. There could be a silicon varietv: if life was simply informa

computers?

tion which renew itself, then how about a universe colonised by self-replicating

In October 1995, Father Piero Coda, writing in the newsletter of the Italian Bishop's Conference. cleared up one puzzling point. Aliens may have souls to be saved. "Having their failings, and created by God and in need of redemption, they too would have a part in the saving work of Jesus Christ," he

## Clarke's loan rate cut 'to boost Tory fortunes'

Larry Elliott and Richard Thomas

HE intense political pressure on the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, to boost the Government's fortunes' was underlined yes-terday when he brushed aside Bank of England misgivings and cut interest rates for the second successive month. Alarmed by the recent weak-

ness in growth, Mr Clarke in-structed the Bank's governor, Eddie George, to trim the cost of borrowing by 0.25 percent-age points to 6.25 per cent. The cut — announced early yesterday — delighted the City and industry but is unlikely to lead to cheaper home loans. Leading building societies said they had already taken account of a quarter-point cut

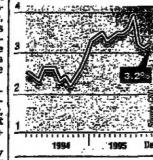
when they reduced mortgage rates before Christmas.

However, estate agents and the construction industry said the base rate cut would help to restore confidence. In what was seen as an attempt to regain control of the political agenda after the

Government's recent prob-lems, Mr Clarke said there was no disagreement with the Governor on the aim of reducing inflation to below 2.5 per cent. However, the Treasury and the Bank refused to comment on whether Mr George had approved of such an early and unexpected move.

At the time of last month's 3.2 per cent, the Treasury City Notebook, page 11

Inflation rate % changes over 12 months



0.25 point fall, the Chancellor and the Governor shared a platform in a show of unity. Yesterday officials said minutes of their meeting would not he published for six weeks. Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal

Democrats' treasury spokes-man, said: "This interest rate cut, coming on the same day that inflation is shown to have risen and is still well above the Government's tar-get range, has clear political overtones. The haste . . . sug-gests that the Government is desperate to pump up the economy prior to the general election, and that it doubts the achievability of its own the achievability of its own

Mr Clarke said that although yesterday's inflation believes the underlying picture is favourable, with latest data for prices at the factory gate showing subdued

cost pressures. He added that the economy was "continuing to grow but at a rate which is clearly below trend" and that the international climate had worsened recently, particularly in Europe.

Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, said the cut was 'accompanied by yet another admission that the economy is growing more slowly than the Chancellor hoped just two months ago". The cut was insufficient without action to tackle job insecurity and In the City, bopes that lower interest rates will produce stronger growth drove the FTSE 100 index of leading shares up 44.5 points to a new record of 3748.7.

Ian Shepherdson, UK economist at HSBC Markets, said the decision would help hard-pressed manufacturers, but suspected that political priorities influenced the timing.
Michael Saunders, at Salomon Brothers, said: "The speed with which rates have fallen raises the risk [that] Mr Clarke is gambling with the inflation target — and will make a series of further rate cuts — to hit his 3 per cent

growth target."

#### Rebel leader eludes forces encircling hostage town

51 Peg everyone wondered if

it was a freak, a one in a mil-

lion observation," said Prof

Planets aren't rare, after all."

universe is rich in oxygen, hydrogen, carbon, calcium,

tified in the dust between the

stars or in meteorite material. But conditions have to be

"just right" for complex chemicals to turn into com-plex, self-replicating proteins

Earth - sometimes called the

and then cells. It happen

"Goldilocks planet".

There is no problem about

Continued from page 1 vice spokesman, General Al-exander Mikhailov, had ear-lier given lurid accounts of how the Chechens had hung, shot and burned hostages.

Meanwhile, in the related crisis in the Black Sea, the ferry hijacked by Turkish pro-Chechen sympathisers on Tuesday was closing on Istanbul last night with 250 mostly Russian hostages aboard.
The Turkish prime minister. Tansu Ciller, said the ship, being shadowed by two

navy destroyers, had to be stopped before it reached the Bosphorus straits. The gunmen on board have threat-

Tocjan, told Turkish television by telephone that he had lost confidence in negotiations. Hearing of the end of the fighting in Dagestan, he said his original demands for Russian forces to let the Che Russian forces to let the che-chen fighters there to go free were no longer valid. "There is nothing to ask of Russia any more," he said. "They have lost their minds, they are only looking for blood." The foreign ministry de-nied reports that it had of-fered to allow the militants to

hold a news conference in Is-tanbul before surrendering. Popular support for Chechen cause has led to lemonstrations in Istanbul and hoats have been hired by welcoming parties wanting to go out to meet the ferry.

## **INQUIRY INTO** LEGISLATION **AGAINST** ΓERRORISM.

The Government has announced that it is setting up an independent inquiry to look into the future need for counter terrorism legislation once peace has become established in Northern Ireland.

The inquiry will consider what legislation will be needed to deal with the longer term threat from all kinds of terrorism.

The Inquiry is to be carried out by the Rt. Hon. Lord Lloyd of Berwick. He will be assisted by Sir Brian Kerr, a Northern Ireland High Court Judge, who will advise on Northern Ireland matters. Lord Lloyd will be consulting widely and he would like to receive comments and contributions from the public.

If you have any views relating to the law against <u>terrorism which you would like Lord Lloyd to consider,</u> please write to him at PO Box 9998, London SW1H 9ZB.



In three years as Channel 4's head of music, I did not expect to come across such a thick concentration of sad, illadjusted, egotistical, cruel, deluded, ruthless, two-faced Napoleons-in-waiting. And that is merely in the world of classical music. In the pop world there are just as many bastards but they are nowhere near as well educated.

Review cover story

## Police test **CS** sprays to combat violence

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

NCAPACITANT sprays are to be issued to the police on a trial basis in response to the growing number of violent attacks on officers. If the trials are successful, the CS spray could become as much a part of an officer's equipment as a

tests in 16 forces will take place for a six-month period from March 1 came after a meeting of the Association of Police Officers' council in London yesterday. It follows lobbying by all police bodies for incapacitants to be issued as added protection to officers, and as a halfway mea-sure between baton and

James Sharples, chief con-stable of Merseyside and the president of ACPO, said the decision to carry out trials had the unanimous support of all 43 forces in England and Wales. Forces in Scotland are not taking part in the experi-ment but are watching the trials with interest.

Trials of the small CS spray were due to start last summe in 18 forces, but were delayed after a Metropolitan police of-ficer suffered facial burns after being sprayed during a training session. This week the officer warned ACPO against "rushing in" the issuing of the canisters.

Tony Burden, chief constable of Gwent, the ACPO officer in charge of the tests, said: "The fact that the police service has to go down this path is regrettable in itself but it is necessary. There is an overwhelming need for an incapacitant."

CS is a crystalline solid named after Corson and Stoughton which first made it in 1928. It is not a gas, but is fired in a jet into an assailant's eyes. Officers will only be able to use it when there is genuine threat of violence to the officer or a member of the public. Sprays cost £2 to

CS incapacitates the target. transparency.

irritating the eyes and making breathing difficult. The effects normally last less than 15 minutes and are dissipated by water or fresh air. The spray can cause blisters, but Mr Burden said there was no evidence of permanent dam-age. It is used by police in Holland, France and Belgium but is banned in Germany.

Fred Broughton, the chairman of the Police Federation. yesterday welcomed the deci-sion to test the sprays although the federation had ex pressed a preference for OC (pepper) sprays which are not being tested because of Home Office concerns about their

Mr Broughton said: "The hand-held incapacitant spray is a vital part of the strategy required to overpower armed or violent offenders. It enables officers to restrain violent criminals without resorting to batons or firearms."

The Home Office minister David Maclean said: "The

health effects of CS have been thoroughly researched to the level which would be required for a pharmaceutical drug. This has established that CS presents no significant risk to human health."

The 16 forces where the spray will be tested are: Avon and Somerset, Cambridge shire, Cleveland, Dorset, Durham, Dyfed Powys, Greater Manchester, Kent, Leicester-shire, Merseyside, the Metropolitan Police, Northumbria, North Yorkshire, West Mer-cia, West Midlands and West Yorkshire.

Mr Sharples and Bill

City of London police, said the council had discussed and now supported the creation of a national squad to fight orga nised crime. They were satis-fled such a unit should be headed by a police officer, probably of chief constable

ACPO is concerned about the role MI5 might play in dealing with organised crime. Senior officers feel the Secu-rity Service Bill does not address their concerns about accountability



HE chairman of Wessex

his company's member-ship of the Water Services Association, the trade body he headed during the summer drought fiasco which un-leashed a wave of unprece-dented public anger against the privatised industry.

Nicholas Hood is under-stood to have been furious about the way the industry's image had been damaged by the troubled Yorkshire Water, whose actions he was forced to defend in the latter half of last year. The Govern-ment criticised Yorkshire for poor handling of the drought, and the company further in-flamed public hostility with a

series of gaffes. Mr Hood, who stepped down as WSA chairman only last month, wasted no time in writing to his successor, Mike Hoffman of Thames Water, saying he felt there was no longer any good reason for belonging to the body.

The trade association, which has acted as an umbrella for all 10 regional water services groups, was set up to present a unified front and a national voice for an industry which has become increasingly diversified since privatisation, but found itself forced to act as troubleshooter during the drought. Mr Hood's letter bore yesterday's date was and hand-delivered to the WSA's London offices. In his response, Mr Hoffman says he regrets Mr Hood felt such action was necessary and warns that "a third front in an already frag-

mented industry will not help

public perceptions".

Mr Hood's "desire to differen-tiate your company from the rest of the industry". Mr Hood was not available

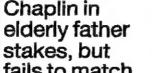
for comment yesterday. But a spokesman for Wessex Water said: "We firmly believe it would be better for us and the industry if were seen as dis-tinct and different companies. We have different policies and approaches to customers and regulation. We do not feel that as long as we continue to present Wessex Water as part of the water industry we will not be given the credit where credit is due."

The spokesman said the move was not intended to be a criticism of the other water companies "but we feel that while we are being represented as the water industry, it is blinding the world to the it is blinding the world to the achievements we have made for our customers".

The company will maintain "loose links" with the association.

Last summer the reputation of the water companies sank to an all-time low as custom ers facing above-inflation price rises and water restrictions saw red at tales of re-cord profits, "fat cat" bosses" pay rises, falling investment and poor service.

Yesterday Frank Dobson the shadow environment secretary, who exposed the huge amounts of leakage from the companies' own taps. said: "I imagine that Wessex Water don't like being tarred with the Yorkshire and North-West brushes. I expect Mr Hood has suffered the embarrassment of having to defend the indefensible. And when the WSA's official policy was not to pay compensation to customers, he was placed in a difficult position because his But he admits he respects | to do so."



stakes, but fails to match up down under

Peer beats

ORD Young of Darting ton, father of more than 40 radical innovations in British life over the last half century, is readying himself for his newest and - at his age — most distinc-

tive project. In his 81st year, he is to

from earlier marriages, Lord Young — who thought up the Open University and the Consumers' Association — is now due to out-match the late Sir Charles

become a father again. His | hood. He and his family dethird wife Dorit, aged 37, is expecting a baby in the summer. With five children part of a growing trend. part of a growing trend. The number of children born in marriage with fathers aged over 60 has risen by 45 per cent to nearly 650 a year in 10 years, according to the

cent in 1993. Lord Young remarried

last summer, two years after his second wife, Sacha Moorsom, died of cancer after 33 years of marriage. sellor for the charity Relate, said: "There are no Chaplin by four years in Office of Population Cen-the annals of late parent-suses and Surveys. Fathers parenthood so long as the

with Lord Young's knowledge will obviously be the most enormously stimulating father.

The world's oldest father is believed to be an Australian. Les Colley, who was 92 when his son Oswald was born in Ararat, north-west

## Jail for fax fraud that netted millions

Elaborate scam involved 60 countries and 400 victims, reports Duncan Campbell

"fax fraud", which involved about 60 countries, 400 victims and

sire to get something for

nothing.
The fraud, which has been operating worldwide for sums in US dollars which the many years but which has escalated recently, involves sending a fax or letter to a name plucked from a telecontracts. The victim was told

phone directory.

The target is offered an apparently foolproof method

David Oluyitan. 40, of Hackney, east London, was jailed for four years; Mathew Oke, 47, of Camden, north London, for three and a half years; Abdul Khaliq, 43, of Barking-side, Essex, for two and a half years; Victor Boulter, 53, of

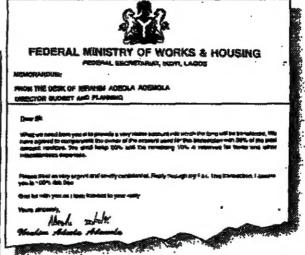
TVE men were jailed yes

Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire
terday for their parts in
an elaborate transport for five years; and Victor Was London, for five years. The first two were recommended emanating from Nigeria and based simply on people's delire to get something

Nigeria. Victims were offered large that a British bank account was needed for the money to be transferred. The usual de of making money merely by allowing his bank account to be used for the transfer of transferred, usually running into tens of thousands of pounds.

If a target responded, he would be invited to Nigeria where he was then asked to pay "local taxes" in cash be-fore the money could be

If the target would not



Lord Young, about to become a father at 80. The number of children with fathers over 60 has risen by 45 per cent to nearly 650 a year over the past 10 years PHOTOGRAPH DAVID SILLITOR

travel to Nigeria, the Nigerian fraudsters (Oluyitan, Oke and Khailq) posed as agents of the Central Bank of Nigeria who would then take the victim to a notary public where he would swear a declaration that he was entitled laration that he was entitled to the money. He would then be asked to pay a £2,000 con-

Boulton and Watson, the former from England, the latter from Barbados, would then pose as bank managers who had received money from the central bank. Using the names of real bank offi-cials — Mr Major was one of their bogus identities - they would also require a fee. The fraud would be spun

out by requiring further pay-ment of a "bribe" or "local tax" in order to facilitate the final transfer of tens of thousands of dollars into the victim's bank account. The noney was never transferred

Officers from the Metropoli-tan police fraud squad recovered £280,000 when they raided three offices in Mayfair used by the team. Officers believe that the scams have night. ielded tens of millions of pounds for the various gangs perating the fraud.

The team jailed yesterday is thought to have been incolved in about 60 countries with more than 400 victims and a turnover of £15 million. Detective Inspector David Crinnion, who led the in-quiry, said yesterday that he was not surprised that people were so easily conned: "It's greed. They think they're get-

ting something for nothing."
Often the victims do not complain to the police because they have been told that the money is stolen. There is a strong suspicion that, because the frauds are so wide spread, they could involve Nigerian government

#### Spurs striker escapes ban after 104mph motorway trip

Sue Quinn

ACOURT decision not to disqualify footballer Chris Armstrong for driving at more than 100mph in his BMW was condemned last

caped a ban after telling magistrates that disqualification would interfere with his

training sessions.
Telford magistrates were told Armstrong, 24, from Chigwell, Essex, had been driving at 104 mph on the M54 at Shifnal, Shropshire, while return-

ing to London after a match at Chester on October 5. Armstrong, who earns an estimated £7,000 a week was fined £500, ordered to pay £30 costs and given six penalty points. Magistrates decided not to disqualify him because of the difficulties a driving ban would cause for his work AA spokesman Adrian Ruck said it was the only case he had heard of where a ban

had not been imposed on a driver exceeding 100 mph. "We are trying to get people to see speeding as just as antisocial as drink driving. It

costs as many lives each year, if not more, he said.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents said almost a third of all passengers and drivers killed each year were involved in speed-related accidents.

John Carlisle, Tory MP for Luton North and vice-chair-man of the Conservative backbench sports committee, said: "This is an appalling decision based on a barmy reason.



over training sessions

## Road contractors 'quit'

Newbury bypass in jeopardy as protests add to building costs

Alex Bellos

CUB-CONTRACTORS were withdrawing from bids to build the Newbury bypass and this was putting the project in jeopardy, it was claimed yesterday.

Companies applying for the main contract to build the controversial road say the large protests have already caused some of their sub-con ing to the trade journal Construction News. The six construction com-

panies competing for the road were having to add £20 million to their original bid estimates of £60 million to cover potential delay. A bidder told the paper: "My impression is that subbies don't want the job." Another said: "I'm not sure the

local people are keen on the

Put that with the possibility of a high tender price and I'm not sure it will go ahead." The deadline for the tenders is the end of February, and the Highways Agency will announce the winner two months later. The agency said it had been given no indication that the con-tractors were having prob-lems with their sub-

contractors.
The 10-day-old protest yes terday attracted its most emi-nent supporters so far when the leaders of six of the coun try's most important environnental protection bodies vis ited the route.

It is the first time Greenpeace UK, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the World Wide Fund for Nature. Friends of the Earth, the Council for British Archaeology and the Wild Life Trust have joined at such a high scheme and I get a feeling of a level to fight a campaign. Table on change in its political worth. Barbara Young, chief exec. Development.

utive of the RSPB, said it showed the strength of the opposition.
"We have 900,000 members

There will be some who think we should not get involved. But I think it is worth the to the public and the Govern ment that building more roads is not the answer they will carry on doing so."

Blackwell's, the company contracted to clear the nine-mile route before the main contractor is appointed, made good progress yesterday. About 100 yards of trees were cut before the chainsaws stopped at a protesters' camp.

• Law-breaking lorry operators should face heavier fines for traffic offences, government advisers said yesterday. urrites James Meikle

istrates for unlicenced loads overloading, poor maintenance and excessive drivers' hours were so low that companies risked conviction in search of profits, according to a report by the UK Round Table on Sustainable

#### Doctors save four children with meningitis by 'washing' blood lost several toes from both feet because of complica-tions of the illness. Chris Mibili

ATREATMENT to "wash" the blood of patients severely ill with meningitis has saved the lives of four children, doc-

or tour children, doc-tors said today.

Dr Crispin Best and col-leagues at the Royal Hospi-tal for Sick Children, Glasgow, report in the Lancet bow they filtered the blood of four children with severe neningococcal septicaemia using a technique called haemo-diafiltration.

from the blood inflamma-

tory proteins which can fuel the illness, as well as excess water which can cause lung complications. The doctors say that with conventional treatment alone they would have expected a 75 per cent death rate among the group, but all the patients — three two-year-olds and a 12-

year-old - survived. Two

needed legs amputated be-low the knee, and another

its early use is potentially life-saving."

• An inquiry is to be launched at Ealing Hospital, London, after a 17-year-old girl died from meningitis hours after leaving hospital. She had been hospital. She had been given an injection for what doctor diagnosed as flu.

treatment is speculative

and will remain so until a

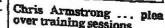
trial is carried out. How-

ever, baemo-diafiltration is

an established technique

clinical impression is that

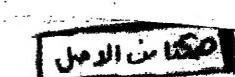
The family of Alison Krunic said she was admit-ted to the hospital with tell-tale red blotches indicating meningitis. An hour after returning home she became comatose and was readmitted with clear signs of meningococcal septicaemia. She died two hours later. A hospital spokesman said the case was being in-





## Help painful blocked sinuses disappear with double action Sinutab.

Few things are more painful than the headaches caused by blocked sinuses. Specially formulated Sinutab with its double action acts quickly to relieve the pain and ease the congestion. What's more, Sinutab Nightime will also aid restful sleep,



## Classroom methods give young Swiss a two-year lead in maths

#### **Donald MacLeod on success with sums**

England are up to two years behind their Swiss counterparts in mathematics, according to a report today urging schools to adopt continental textbooks and teaching methods.

Swiss children spend far more time mastering basic arithmetic — particularly mental arithmetic — than English pupils, found Helvia Bierhof, author of the study for the National Institute of Economic and Social Research. Calculators are virtually banned in both Swiss and German primary schools, which use similar methods, and pupils typically do six times as many exercises as English textbooks allow for on a topic

before moving to the next. Swiss methods are already being tried in the Labour-run London borough of Barking and Dagenham, which sent teachers to observe continental practice. Tests showed improvements across the ability range, said schools involved.

Britain's problems in finding enough school-leavers with the maths to cope with technical and vocational training can be traced to poor preparation in primary school, argues Ms Bierhof.

She highlights Swiss and German practices including:

Mental arithmetic given
precedence over written methods until age nine. "Dodges" children here are expected to pick up them-

☐ More oral work given to the whole class before indi-

#### 'Dodgy' way to numeracy

MENTAL arithmetic "dodges" ☐ Break down additions of clinging to oral question and two-digit numbers into answer and the avoidance of The union was appealing to

nearest 10 and decrease the way I heard them taught I other by the same amount — would have made progress." eg: 54 + 38 = 52 + 40.
□ Short cuts — eg: 26

26 + 60 - 1.☐ Rearrange terms in more convenient order — eg: 58 + 7

- 9 - 8 = 58 - 8 - 9 + 7.

**David Pallister** 

OHAMMED al-Ma-s'arl, the Saudi dissi-dent threatened with

deportation to Dominica because of his attacks on the

Saudi royal family, revealed

yesterday that he was consid-

ering applying for political

asylum in a more developed country in the West.

launch a critique of the Saudi

Arabian economy, he said he

was confident of winning his

judicial review of the decision

to deport him. But he added:

"I am sure there are other

more secure environment of Commerce.

At a press conference to

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EN-YEAR-OLDS in dren encouraged to work with England are up to two whole numbers not digits. □ Calculators are not used —
 teachers believe they may hold back mental calculation.
 □ Arithmetic forms 80 per cent of maths teaching, com pared to around 50 per cent in England. ☐ Consolidation using oral and written exercises is worked on until children are able to use techniques with

ease and speed. Whereas schools in Eng-land use individualised work the national curriculum, Swiss and German teachers must by law use only approved textbooks detailing steps to be fol-lowed by the class. Pam Nuttall, head of Hunt-

ers Hall junior school in Dag-enham, who visited Germany and has sent three staff to Switzerland to study their methods, believes they have been proved successful by tests although they cannot be imported wholesale imported wholesale. Children showed more con

fidence with numbers and the best were doing "astounding" mental calculations. Far from drilling them by rote, the new teaching involved a lot of class discussion, with eight and nine-year-olds showing their own methods to the rest of the class on an overhead projector. Ms Nuttall now aims to extend such methods to her six-year-olds.

Roger Luxton, the borough's principal inspec-tor, said the experiment, started 18 months ago, had reduced the "tail" of underachievers in six primary schools without holding back the brightest children.

A century ago Matthew Arnold, the poet and school in-spector, noted the same advantages in German maths teaching. "In the teaching of arithmetic I was particularly smaller steps — eg. 37 + 26 = hurry, the securing of the ground ... If I had been Increase one number to the taught these matters in the

> Laying the Foundations of Numeracy; Helvia Bierhof; £3. National Institute of Economic and Social Research; 0171 222 7665

than Dominica which can

handle a mischief-maker.

Dominica cannot protect me."
Professor Al-Mas'ari suggested Germany, Japan or a
Commonwealth country such

as Canada, as a possible

But, he added, even if he was sent to the Caribbean, "we will be able to struggle from any place in the world."
In a calculated snub to British heritage.

ich business - whose lucra-

tive contracts with Saudi Ara-

bia were said by government ministers to be the cause of

his deportation order — he held the press conference in the heart of the City of Lon-don at the London Chamber



Counting on themselves . . . Children at Hunters Hall primary school in Dagenham, east London, use a projector to pass on tips for solving arithmetical problems to classmates during a Swiss-style mathematics lesson Photograph: E HAMILTON WEST

## Heads' plea over violent parents

John Carvel Education Editor

Schools should be able to expel a pupil whose parents use or threaten violence against staff, the National Association of Head

powers to tackle disorder after the murder of headmaster Philip Lawrence outside his school in Maida Vale, west London, last month.

General secretary David Hart said: "The time has come to say it is totally unreasonable for a school to have to carry on educating a pupil

economy, by Latif Wahid, a
Kurdish Iraqi lecturer at the
London School of Oriental
and African Studies, disputed
International Monetary Fund

optimism about the king-

Mr Wahid, an oil specialist, said that instability in OPEC together with new finds in the

North Sea could drive down

the price of oil to \$11 a barrel from the current \$17. This, combined with Saudi infla-tion, continuing high military

tic borrowing could lead to

stagnation and political

Other Worlds, page 7

dom's balance of payments.

guilty of extreme behaviour." This should not be regarded as visiting the sins of the father on the child. But Margaret Morrissey, spokes-

woman for the National Con-federation of Parent Teacher making children pay for the school under the Local Gov-sins of their parents. If there ernment Act had little effect is a problem with a parent assaulting a teacher, the police should be called in to deal with it."

Mr Hart said: "Schools are becoming more and more refuse to admit pupils with worried about the safety of staff in the waks of the increased level of physical attacks or threats". Last year 69 heads and deputy heads

were assaulted or subjected to thorities provide for excluded violent abuse and 12 have pupils is breaking down.

"The authorities cannot Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

The police were reluctant to press assault charges unless thugs whose needs cannot be bodily harm was serious met by other mainstream ernment Act had little effect since the maximum punishment was a £50 fine, Mr Hart said.

plained that heads could not serious criminal records.
"The problem is rapidly reaching nightmare proportions. The whole system by which local education aucope and then try to force schools to admit pupils who are often 14 to 16-year-old

The association asked Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, for powers to exclude pupils indefinitely.

A spokeswoman for the Department for Education and Employment declined to comment on the NAHT's proposals, which she said would be the subject of discussions between Mr Hart and Mrs Shephard next week.

titis and the other because

the patient's bone marrow failed to produce sufficent blood cells. A third needed

They believe there may

be a case for giving patients liver function tests, but this

would make it prohibi-

treatment of a variety of in-

a liver transplant.

## **Dorrell asks GPs to take** more work

Chris Mihili Medical Corre

take on an increased workload embracing elements of care pro-vided by hospital doctors. particularly for accident and emergency patients and the mentally ill, Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, said

AMILY doctors should

yesterday.

Mr Dorrell, who met the
British Medical Association's
GP committee to set out his vision of the family doctor of the future, promised he was not trying to shift work on to general practice to save money from hospital budgets. He said an expanded role for GPs would increase their professional satisfaction and

improve care to patients. Extra pay and resources would be provided to reward GPs for the extra work by shifting money from hospital

The proposed changes come as part of the Government's commitment to improving primary care — treatment provided by GPs, practice nurses, health visitors and other staff outside hospitals. Family doctors themselves

are looking to renegotiate their contract of what ser-vices they provide as part of their desire to free themselves from night calls.

Mr Dorrell hoped that some agreement could be reached by the early summer, with changes possibly being imple-mented before a general

"I am aware that within the committee and the GPs they represent there will tend to be a feeling that this is unload-ing a new workload on GPs. Any politician has to realise that if there is going to be an cussions with the profession

"The objective is a reason able reward for a reasonable workload. This is an opportu-nity to improve the delivery of care to patients and to make the job more rewarding for the professionals themselves."

He wanted to remove many of the barriers between famtal care, providing a "hospital without walls" where consul-tants would visit GP surgeries and run outpatient ses sions, and GPs would have more responsibility for treat-ing hospital patients, under plans set out by consultants.

In particular he wanted GPs to take on more care for the mentally ill and for acci-dent and emergency patients. "We want to deliver more services in a primary care setting and break down the bar riers between hospital services and primary care. These are two big changes which have a long way further to go."

Nurses or other staff could take up some of the routine work of GPs, and paperwork could be cut, allowing them time for their new

responsibilities.
The BMA said the development of primary care through taking on additional tasks should only take place with the consent of the profession. with the necessary transfer of resources, and after a proper evaluation of the case for change. 'General practice must not

be seen as a cheap dumping ground, in which workload inexorably increases without proper funding and reward. Change should only take place in a planned and structured way, not in a haphazard

## 'Naked prejudice' over Godiva prize

Michael Ellison

A THEN Coventry set V V range of suitably grand events to mark the centenary of the motor car, it naturally sought to enlist the support of some of the city's nest prominent citizens.

True, the 35-year-old wom-an who hijacked the early celbrations by removing her clothes during a church service on Wednesday was not quite what they had in mind. But a local MP would surely not do anything to tarnish the glory of motor city?

John Butcher, MP for Cov-

entry South-west, was invited to be a patron of the Interna-tional Godiva Award, which will be given in June to "the woman that has done most to achieve social change". Nominations were invited from around the world for the title, intended to reflect "the spirit

and essence of Coventry Mr Butcher replied on House of Commons notepaper: "I would be happy to become a patron of the Inter-national Godiva Award but only on the grounds that the award will not include a nominee who has anything to do with Aids, multi-culturalism, environmentalism, sexism or feminism.

"I only mention this be cause I am getting very bored with a fashion which has almost become a form of censor ship which only considers people doing good works in these areas to receive awards or recommendation." Yesterday the former Department of Trade and Indus-

try minister said: "The award is a good idea, but these fash-ionable 'isms' have had a good run over the last five

"If they were considering someone in, say, the health field, about 10 times as many people die of cancer as die of Aids. There could be a woman who's done immense work for the hospice movement and never been recognised."

Victoria Charlton, organiser of the award, said: "His restrictions would rule out Mother Teresa and Princess Anne. I thought we were liv-ing in a multi-racial society. I thought we cared about the environment and I thought feminism had achieved some-

thing. Perhaps I was wrong.
"This is not what I would have expected from a Conservative MP His attitude to the Godiva award is naked



### Saudi dissident rejects | Popular acne drug 'causes Dominica as safe haven liver failure and arthritis'

#### The report on the Saudi

**Medical Correspondent** 

WIDELY used anti-Acne drug can cause rare but potentially fatal side-effects, doctors warn today after two pa-tients died and one needed a liver transplant.

Researchers claim that minocycline can cause a severe form of arthritis, systemic lupus erythemato-sus, and an immune response which can trigger a

form of hepatitis.

Minocycline, an antibiotic available in tablet or capsule form, is Britain's most popular anti-acne drug. In 1993 800,000 pre-bave died while taking the scriptions were written at a drug, one from severe bepacost of £28 million. Seven companies make the drug, which has been available since 1972 and costs around

£30 a month. The report by Paul Emery and colleagues at Leeds university in the British Medical Journal examines seven patients with serious adverse responses to the

drug.
The researchers claim that the Committee on the Safety of Medicines has reports of 11 patients on the drug with the arthritis condition and 16 with Doctors say two patients fections including acne."

tively expensive. A spokeswoman for the Department of Health said: "These reactions are in-cluded in product informa-tion and similar side-effects occur in other antibiotics of the same class. Minocycline is a useful antibiotic for the

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#### Simitis takes over Papandreou crown

GREECE'S ruling socialist party, Pasok, elected Costas Simitis. a reform-minded moderate, as the country's new prime minis-ter last night. Mr Simitis, a university academic, replaces Andreas Papandreou, who resigned six days ago during his eighth week in hospital.

The former industry minister was elevated to the post by a vote margin of 11 over his competitor, Akis Tsochadzopoulos, who gained 75 ballots in the two-round race. On hearing the result, Mr Simitis hailed it as an historic moment for Pasok, the Panhellenic Socialist movement founded by Mr Papandreou from an anti-junta resistance group 21 years ago.

"This is not a personal victory, but a victory for the whole of Pasok, the country and the future of the centre-left," Mr Simitis,

aged 59, said in a short speech to the party. The election was welcomed by Western diplomats who praised his pro-European views and drive for reform, "He will be less hidebound on foreign policy and probably more forward-looking on issues like Cyprus and Turkey," a European

But the victor's honeymoon, at least with the public, is unlikely to last long. Mr Simitis will inevitably be compared to Mr Papandreou, not least in his ability to unite Pasok's rival groups. While trying to satisfy the socialists' many different factions, he will also have to meet the growing demand for a more demogratic leadership.

more democratic leadership.

"We were prepared under Andreas Papandreou to put water
in our wine and accept his kind of leadership." said Giorgos
Anomeritis, the deputy economy minister. "But now we want
decision-making to be more of a collective business."

The socialists are accutely a ware that they have less than two

years left in office. As a result, the new prime minister faces the unenviable task of placating a public that has become increas-ingly disgruntled with the government's handling of economic and foreign affairs. — Helena Smith, Athens.

#### Crowds mourn Abacha's son

MOURNERS crowded into General Sahi Abacha's home yest day after the Nigerian leader's eldest son. Ibrahim, was killed in a plane crash, witnesses said. "The family compound is filled with sympathisers," said Alhaji Musa, a lawyer in Kano, a city in northern Nigeria, where the presidential plane crashed on Wednesday night, killing a total of 14 people. The News Agency of Nigeria reported that Colonel Mohamme Wase, the military administrator of Kano state, had declared

yesterday and today public holidays. - Reuter, Lagos.

#### California returns to the cane

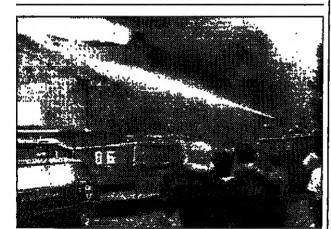
A LEGISLATIVE committee voted on Wednesday to allow schools in California to resume spanking students, despite warnings that such discipline could encourage violent behavior. The education committee narrowly approved a bill that would allow schools to use corporal punishment to discipline students if parents authorise it.

Twenty-three other states allow corporal punishment in schools, said Mickey Conroy, the Orange County assemblyman who drew up his bill after a Florida statute was upheld by the Supreme Court. The bill is likely to pass the assembly, which has a slim Republican majority, but it could run into problems in the Senate, where Democrats have the majority. — AP, Chlifornia.

#### Legal ban on Mitterrand book

A PARIS court banned a book yesterday which alleges that François Mitterrand kept his cancer diagnosis secret for 11 years. Le Grand Secret (The Big Secret), published on Wednesday, was co-written by a doctor who treated Mitterrand for 14 years. Virtually all 40,000 copies of the book had been sold before

yesterday's ruling. The former president's family, using French privacy laws. argued that Dr Claude Gubler had been in breach of confidence. Judge Jacqueline Cochard ruled that the publishers, Plon, would be fined 1,000 francs (£133) for each copy sold of the 98 france



trainer aircraft crashed into a clothing shop in Bandone Indonesia, yesterday, killing 15 people. Airport officials said the plane had developed engine trouble

#### China arrests critic's brother

CHINESE police have arrested the brother of a former Shanghai phanage employee who has accused officials of killing children in their care, charging him with trying to topple the government, his sister said yesterday. Zhang Jian was taken in for questioning on January 9, his sister, Zhang Shuyun, said in New York.

The detention of Mr Zhang, an official of the Baoshan district people's government in Shanghai and a Communist Party mem-ber, came two days after Human Rights Watch. Asia, based in New York, issued a report on Chinese orphanages based partly or testimony by Zhang Shuyun. She said her brother was charged with "participating in the counter-revolutionary crime of subverting the government". The charge carries a minimum 10-year

verting the government. The transfer of the Second of the Shanghai Children's Welfare Institute, said many Chinese orphanages have a policy of deliberately allowing children in their care to die to keep numbers within budget limits. - Reuter, Shanghai.

#### Angolan summit called off

THE planned summit tomorrow between President José Eduardo dos Santos of Angola and Jonas Savimbi, the Unita rebel leader, was called off yesterday, placing a new question mark against the latest attempt to end the civil war.

The cancellation of the meeting was announced as Madeleine Albright, the United States ambassador to the United Nations. delivered a warning to the country that the international community expected better progress towards a settlement. Mr Dos Santos said later that the summit had been called off at the request of Dr

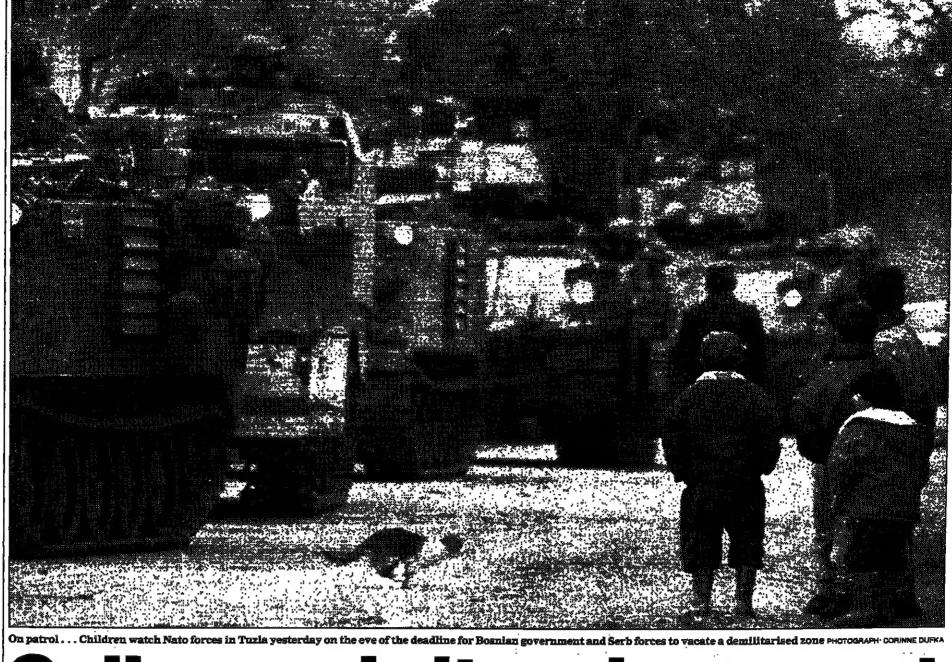
Dr Savimbi was due to present Mr dos Santos, the MPLA leader, with nominations for a new coalition government, and a list of senior Unita officers to be integrated into the command of the national defence force. — David Beresford, Luanda.

#### EU sacks top finance official

THE European Commission confirmed yesterday that it had sacked a senior finance official who claimed the drive for a single European currency had damaged national economies and could

Bernard Connolly, a Briton who headed a unit responsible for monitoring the European exchange rate mechanism, was suspended in September after the publication of his book, The Rotten Heart of Europe. It created a storm at the headquarters of the European Union's executive agency. Klaus van der Pas, its chief spokesman, said the views expressed in the unauthorised publication were "incompatible" with Mr Connolly's position.

Mr Connolly, who likened the Commission to a Stalinist bureaucracy intolerant of open debate, promised in September to take legal action against the Commission if he were fired. A spokeswoman for his publisher. Faber & Faber, said he will make a statement at the beginning of February. — Bloomberg, Brussels. | bad been promised.`



## Soil reveals its grim secret

An empty village has yielded up 'an important part of the jigsaw puzzle' of Bosnian ethnocide. **Julian Borger** reports from a mass grave near Srebrenica

posing body parts strewn across patches of mud provide grim evi-dence that the abandoned village of Glogova is the site of two previously undiscovered mass graves containing the remains of Muslims slaugh-tered last July by Bosnian Serbs after the fall of the United Nations "safe area" of

ists to the area, I found indications the site had been tampered with, possibly in a botched attempt to cover up evidence of atrocities. The earth shows signs of having

seen buildozed recently. Two swaths of waterlogged ochre clay lie on either side of One is in the form of a rough circle about 30 yards in diam-eter just north of the road. Near the centre, a rotting limb protrudes from the mud

It is hard to tell whether it is part of an arm or leg. Other bone fragments lie nearby. The second muddy patch is south of the road and further to the east. It is a rectangle, approximately 20 yards by 50. A short search of the surface reveals a jawbone complete with teeth (one with a filling),

ONES and decom- | human. Remnants of clothing and shoes are scattered all around.

I also saw evidence which corroborates a survivor's testimony that the biggest massacre in the aftermath of Srebrenica took place west of Glogova, in a large warehouse in Kravica.

One survivor, Hakija Husej-novic, has told investigators that on July 13 last year, 2,000 Muslim men attempting to escaught, crammed into the warehouse and killed with grenades and machine-guns fired through the doors and windows.

The burnt-out blue and white warehouse now stands empty at the spot Mr Husejno-vic described. Clusters of bula dirt road in Glogova, about let holes are clearly visible six miles north of Srebrenica. doors, which are blackened with soot. The presence of Serb soldiers nearby made closer inspection impossible. "We have reports from Kra-

vica survivors that the bodies were taken east and Glogova is one of the places they may have been disposed of," a Western investigator said.

He described the discovery of the Glogova site as "an important part of the jigsaw puzzle". It adds to a growing mass of evidence of the wholesale slaughter of Muslims the crown of a skull, and sev-



Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, have been indicted by the UN war crimes tribunal. Six months after the enclave was stormed, 5,000 heavy machinery at another people are still missing.

Hitherto unpublished United States satellite photographs and preliminary was pointed to Glogova as the possible site of a mass grave, but only now have independent witnesses reached the

Glogova is the fifth mass grave linked to the Srebrenica killings to have been discovered. US officials believe there may be a sixth, a few miles west of Glogova, and perhaps more. Satellite surveillance spot-

ted earth-moving equipment moving to Glogova in October, three months after Sre-brenica fell. US sources said it appeared that material was being removed from the site. The treadmarks of buildozers and the sharp furrows left by eral leg-bones — all clearly from Srebrenica for which the excavators still appear fresh.

#### **Judge asks British for help**

stone, the chief prosecu-tor at the United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague, has asked the British army for help in investigating suspected mass graves in western Bosnia, Nato sources said yester-day, writes Julion Borger. In a letter to Admiral

Leighton Smith, the com-mander of I-FOR, the Nato implementation force, the judge asked for troops to provide security "and other

and the bones and body parts

suspected mass grave in Nova Kasaba, which I also visited this week. The Nova Kasaba site, 10

miles west of Glogova, was de-tected by US satellite pictures in July, and first located in August by an American jour-nalist from the Christian Science Monitor. I visited the site on Wednesday and found several bones and shoes embedded in the earth, where grass is beginning to grow.

If an attempt was made to conceal or empty the Glogova mass grave, it was far from meticulous, leaving bones on and near the surface. It is possible that they were .uncovered by snow and rain after the site was bulldozed.

When you have mass graves which are dug in shal-low clay, the surface peels away really quickly." a West-

#### tion of a potential grave. Nato officials confirmed

the site was in western Bos-nia, where British troops are stationed near a disused mine in Ljubija. Investiga-tors believe slaughtered Muslims and Croats may have been buried there.

A Nato spokesman said Lieutenant-General Michael Walker, the com-mander of the Nato Rapid Reaction Corps, was "evaluating" the request.

But that leaves open the were clearly broken up with some force.

The tracks appear far more recent than traces left by revealed — has apparently

been left untouched War crimes investigators are puzzled at what appears to be an inconsistent apto be an inconsistent ap businesses which appear to proach, but point to a mood of be functioning are a grocery. defeatism in the Bosnian Serb

camp following a string of military defeats last year Evidence of mass graves in Glogova first appeared on satellite photographs a few days after Bosnian Serb troops overran Srebrenica, a govern ment-held enclave declared a UN "safe area" in 1993. On July 11 last year the UN

abandoned attempts to protect Srebrenica after largely symbolic Nato air strikes had come too late to stop the Serb onslaught.

in a group of 2,000 men who surrendered. On July 13, Gen Miadic came to address them. "You know, it's not pleasant to make war with Serbia," Mr

Husejnovic quoted the Serb

Mr Husejnovic said he was

One middle-aged Serb refugee said: 'It's bad here. There's worse, but this is really bad. I have no job and no chance of getting one."

Questioned as to the where-

handouts.

abouts of Srebrenica's 40,000 Muslim former residents, the new arrivals simply

general as saying. The men were then led to their deaths

in Kravica but Mr Husejnovic

survived by playing dead and covering himself with bodies.

Srebrenica has been sealed

off since last summer, but this week a group of journalists succeeded in sidestepping

Serb checkpoints by using back roads through a nearby

Since its Muslim popula-tion was driven out, an esti-mated 6,000 Serbs have ar-

rived from areas of western Bosnia captured last year by

troops of the Muslim-Croat

federation.
They have taken over flats

belonging to murdered or evicted Muslims and seem to

have thrown the former occu-

household waste are piled up

in heaps around houses and

blocks of flats. The only

a telephone exchange, and a

dingy cafe called the "Ca-

lypso". A line of dishevelled and emaciated people had formed outside a clinic.

apparently waiting for food

mining area.

shrugged.
The sandbagged bases once manned by a Dutch UN battalion — whose presence was supposed to offer protection to the local Muslims - now

## Juppé unveils his plan to save blighted suburbs

The prime minister's pact to help troubled money in enough suburbs.

estates is likely to please neither left nor out the signal that the only estates is likely to please neither left nor right, reports Alex Duval Smith in Paris

to social issues yesterday, with a plan to regenerate France's troubled housing estates based on subsidies

Abandoning the blud-geoning tactics which led to three weeks of strikes over welfare reform, Mr Juppé unveiled a 15 billion franc (£2 billion) "pact for city regeneration", to improve conditions for 3 million people on lawless estates.

The plan, twice delayed, aims to create 100,000 jobs over four years and is a watered-down version of the Marshall Plan for the suburbs, which was at the centre of Jacques Chirac's presidential campaign. While Socialists praised

the plan for steering clear of the "Intifada approach" which had been proposed by the interior minister, lean-Louis Debré, they said it did not go far enough. The Socialist MP Julien Dray said: "It is a pretty

package with little sub-

HE prime minister. The plan incorporates 30 Alain Juppe, signalled a shift in his approach zones where businesses ployers' contributions for five years, and is aimed at ending years of blight on housing estates. It includes measures to

create jobs for under-25s. In in an attempt to prevent young people - often second or third generation immigrants — from dropping out of school, new curriculums will emphasise sport and culture rather than academic achievement.

The one concession to the law-and-order lobby is the deployment of 4,000 extra police. But that is a far cry from Mr Debré's demand for detention centres for persistent offenders under 13. The plan, which will affect only 350 out of the 1,300 suburbs identified as "difficult", is the eighth

since 1981. On the Noë estate at Chanteloup-les-Vignes, 30 miles north-west of Paris. jobless teenagers and social workers were unimpressed.

way to get anything done is to riot." Yazid Kherfi. a youth worker aged 37, said. There have been no riots

at Chanteloup-les-Vignes. named in the job creation scheme, since 1991. But it is the set for the film. La Haine (Hatred), which won the Palme d'Or last year.

On its main square, six out of eight businesses are boarded up. Michel Thecua, aged 59, has been trying to sell his newsagent's shop for 10 years. "We cannot get out of here and we do not particularly want tax incentives to stay," he said. Nearby, a group of youths between 16 and 18 were smoking a joint. "Of course, we need jobs. But

what happens is: the businesses get incentives to come here, then they hire people from outside," one Mr Kherfi said: "The problems run so deep and

there is so much despair that no one here has any faith in government measures. At street level, the equation is simple: If you see that the guy with an education is on the dole and the guy dealing in drugs is driving a BMW, which "By not injecting enough | would you want to be?"

## Aid depends on reform pledge, US tells Yeltsin

Mertin Walker in Washington and

ARNING of an immi-nent crisis in Russia's relations with the West, the Clinton administration has told President Boris Yeltsin that it is "absolutely essential" he reaffirm his commitment to economic and political reform — or Western financial supportis likely to

dry up. The state department praised three sacked Russian reformers, saying that the last to go. Anatoly Chubais, the deputy prime minister. had done "a brilliant job" in organising the world's largest privatisation programme.

The state department spokesman, Nicholas Burns, said: "As we try to think about the ramification of these resignations, and especially that of Mr Chubais, we think it is absolutely essential that President Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin reaffirm the reform basis of the Russian

Mr Burns said it was very important that the Russian government continue to work with the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and Western governments which are supporting Russia with billions of dollars. Mr said the IMF and World Bank the West now in t



Viktor Chernomyrdin: 'One of the West's last friends'

Chernomyrdin would be told on his visit to Washington later this month: "Maintain the reforms and you will maintain Western support for those reforms."

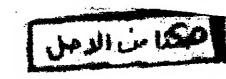
Mr Chernomyrdin is seen as one of the last, isolated friends of reform and of the West in a Kremlin increasingly dominated by hardliners. But the American pressure seems certain to backfire by provoking resentment in Russia.

Former ambassador Vassily Sofronchuk, who was depthird world governments on their interior and foreign pol-icies: "Now they are doing this to Russia, which is a measure of how low Russia

"They don't have the right to prompt or advise the gov-ernment of a sovereign state about the composition of its government . . . If Mr Chernomyrdin understands that he is the head of a government he should say to the US: Dear sirs, this is none of your business. This is something we

shall decide ourselves," The Burns statement will embarrass Mr Chernomyrdin, who is already in trouble with President Yeltsin and his increasingly hardline clique of advisers and favourites. The prime minister was openly contradicted by President Yeltsin after saying there would be no major ministerial changes after the gen-

eral election. US-Russian relations have deteriorated gradually since the heyday of Yegor Gaidar's radical democrat government. However, it was foreign policy issues, rather than economic reform, that caused the downturn. After Nato's bombing of the Bosnian Serbs, and its plans to expand eastwards. the West now faces a far harder Russian foreign minister in Yevgeny Primakov, a



## Emirates in a £4bn flight of fancy



Other worlds

**David Hirst** 

HE last time the United Arab Emirates was in the news it concerned a

knife to her throat and raped her. A first court confirmed the rape but found her guilty of manslaughter, a second, finding no evidence of rape, sentenced her to death.

She eventually went free when the employer's family took "blood money" in compensation. The case dramatured servitude, exploitation and abuse suffered by Asian maids in the Gulf, and the me-dieval interpretation of Muslim law which the courts

It raised a greater furore in Britain than the way the House of Saud treats its dissidents — or at least it did till Saudi activist Mohammed Mas'ari came along, forcing John Major's government to news it concerned a make the abysmal choice it maid, aged 16, who did between upholding her employer to human rights and preserving

a chance" to American F-16s or F-15Es. In this buyer's market, the UAE is well placed to dictate

Dr Mas'ari asylum.

Fortunately, the Government has no such legal obliga-

had to safeguard Dr Mas'ari Because it is now competing

for what has been called "the last great arms deal of the century": the 80 long-range strike aircraft which the UAE

terms. Britain, which does not like those terms, is penalising itself, on principle, tion to protect the rights of Asian maids in the UAE as it

against its competitors.

The conditions are these: a the price of its largesse, the UAE insists on defence trea-

wants to buy for £4 billion.
"Everyone," said a UAE official, "is dying to get this one."
France — which sold the UAE £2.4 billion-worth of tanks by cutting prices hard — is pitting its Mirage 2000-5s against Britain's Tornados. President Clinton has telephoned the UAE president. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, asking him to "give

seeks a formula which, as the the \$600 billion, the Middle Defence Minister, Michael | East spent on arms in the last Portillo, put it, "is consistent with the tradition of armed forces being responsible to their own governments...

even in another country". tles with supplier countries. If Britain wins the day for France has obliged, pledging Tornados by compromising

'Never in the history of armed forces have so few spent so much to create so little in the way of military power'

its principles, that will not be reaction force, 120 warplanes because it deems the UAE a and 200 helicopters to defend place with values especially the UAE against any aggresworth defending. Nor could it seriously argue that the Torsion. The US is working on a similar pact. nados will contribute one

But after long negotiations, Britain still balks at the UAE's demand for jurisdicwhit to the UAE's defences The six members of the Gulf Co-operation Council

shim, a strategic analyst, their purchases "constitute the most clear-cut example of penditure in the Middle East. One could paraphase Winston Churchill and say that never have so few spent so much to create so little in the way of

effective military power."
The UAE's likeliest aggressor is deemed to be Iran. Its geography — a 500-mile coastal strip — and population of 2.2 million, less than a quarter of whom are UAE nationals, mean that it can only be protected as part of a concerted, Saudi-based defence of the whole peninsula.

But the GCC's so-called Peninsula Shield, of which a joint 100,000-man army is supposed to be the core, is a fiasco. The six states blithely more the UAE buys, the embark on their independent readier the seller must be to thought of strategic or technial co-ordination. In the UAE's case, the con-

tic. The UAE's seven emirates guard their autonomy so jeal ously that while the richest, Abu Dhabi, effectively con-trols the 65,000-man federal army, the pext richest, Duhai, provides the defence minister and maintains its own 15,000man army. Arms procure-ment by the seven is so individualistic that they have no fewer than 14 models of ar-moured cars in service.

Adding 80 state-of-the-art warplanes to the 97 the UAE erly fly, will be useless. Buyer and seller will, in effect, admit that. For that is the real meaning of the defence pacts come to its defence.

This bizarre logic now in-forms all Gulf arms purchases, including those of Saudi Arabia, the one state which, in theory, has the manpower and strategic depth to make serious use of them. Superbly equipped though Saudi Arabia was when Saddam Hussein in-vaded Kuwait, it instantly

warfare, much to do with the profits that go into Arab princes' pockets and prop up Western arms industries. The only real curiosity is why, after Dr Mas'ari, the British government feels it has any virtue left to preserve, and how long Mr Portillo will hold out for principles that spare British soldiers the fate of

## **Palestinians** go to the polls amid unrest

AMPAIGNING for tomorrow's Palestinian general election ground to a halt yesterday in a bliz-zard of snow, a flurry of violence, and claims of malpractice.

Half-bearted attempts to hold demonstrations and marches came to little as hail and sleet battered Jerusalem and much of the West Bank.

In the flashpoint southern city of Hebron, Palestinians opposed to the election confronted troops guarding a small but militant community

settler slogans, Amer Jabari, a freelance cameraman, was roughed up by a group of sol-diers before being handed

The incident, though relatively minor, summed up a two-week campaign marred by sporadic violence and bitter confrontations. Hebron is the only Palestin-

ian town where Israeli troops will remain in strength during and after polling. The turn-out is expected to be much lower than in the rest of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Palestinians in the town believe that, while the settlers remain, the self-rule agree-ment with Israel means little.

Jerusalem, too, is a case apart. Israel agreed to the par-ticipation of the city's Palestinian community of up to 85,000 adults. Around 55,000 have registered; all but 5,000, however, will vote outside the city, on Israeli orders.

Israel imposed severe curbs on campaigning in Jerusalem, and detaining candidates who broke the rules.

Among the 672 candidates contesting 88 seats in the new legislature, there is little ideological rivalry. Platforms hardly vary between PLO loy-alists standing for Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, representatives of a host of smaller parties, and independents.

tional monitors has been largely ignored by the Pales-tinian press. The Israeli observer group, Peace Watch, said yesterday the campaign had been conducted in an atmosphere of fear, with arbitrary arrests of activists.

An army of foreign observ ers has descended on the terri-tories, including big teams from the European Union, Japan, Norway, and Canada. Smaller groups have come from countries more familiar democracy — including Egypt and Jordan — and from the

self-rule Palestinian Author ity, reports in slavish detail the daily routine of the PLO chairman, Mr Arafat. He is involved in a parallel election for the post of rues (president or chairman) of the Authority. Palestinian media have

barely made mention of his only opponent. Opinion polls give Samiha Khalil, aged 72, less than 10 per cent of sup-port, and Mr Arafat around 80 per cent. Mrs Khalil, a noted social reformer, has done little to rouse the electorate with her vague policy of opposition to the Israel-PLO peace accords.

The main opposition fac-tions, including the Islamic group Hamas and the leftwing Popular Front, are boycotting the elections, though many of their supporters are expected to back independent



A Palestinian woman grabs an Israeli soldier's rifle during clashes in Hebron yesterday

#### 'Salacious' chat show pioneer out-talked by new generation sembled to watch a variety

ian Katz in New York

lls Yeltsin

PHIL DONAHUE, the silvery and perpetually surprised television talk show host, is to hang up his microphone almost 30 years after pioneering the genre which has overrun American television.

The presenter, aged 60, will stop fronting Donahue at the end of the present series, after more than 6.000 shows on subjects Rushdie (this week's surprise guest). Mr Donahue's once enor-

mous ratings have been whittled down by competition from younger, more ecent years his avuncular. lawyerly style has come to seem pedestrian beside sen-sationalist rivals.

Mr Donahue is said to ence participation format while working as a television anchorman in Dayton, Ohio. An audience had asso Mr Donahue suggested they watch his interview with a celebrity athelst and chip in some questions of their own.

After the success of the programme he was given his own one-hour show, later billed as the talk show "for women who think".
Although he posed tough questions and collected 20 Rmmy awards, Mr Dono hue came under fire for selecting salacious themes and triggering the boom in "tabloid television". In 1981 a television watchdog complained that two out of every five shows were

At his peak in 1988, Mr Donahue claimed a 31 per cent audience share. By the time he lost his New York outlet last year, his share had fallen to about 15 per cent and he had been ov taken by at least five

those promote abnormal

## Scandal upends Indian leaders

Suzanne Goldenberg in New Delhi reports on the corruption revelations ... that have redrawn the political map

NDIA is undergoing a clearout of some of its most fam-iliar political figures who have been implicated in the corruption scandal that has electrified the atmosphere before general elections ex-

pected in April. The 10 politicians so far facing corruption charges in the 650 million rupes (£12 mil-lion) scandal include three

L. K. Advani, president of the main opposition rightwing Hindu, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and Arjun Singh, leader of a breekaway Con-gress faction. The three ministers resigned

The death yesterday of N. T. try's most flamboyant politicians and a former matiné idol, took another prominent figure off the political map, and introduced additional uncertainty among contending

parties. His populous home state of Andhra Pradesh is seen as rucial to the regional and ent India's third political force after the ruling Con-gress (I) party and the BJP. All the main national parties, except for the communists, have been implicated in the death of NTR, as he was

the regional parties of an im- | terest in the unfolding of the portant figurehead.
"Just when the nation is wondering about its choice-lessness on the eve of a general election, it has been rudely shocked into a realisa-

tion of the enormity of its choicelessness," said the Hin-The charges are also ex-pected to scotch moves to reunite the Congress by bringing Mr Singh and other

party fold, relieving the prime minister, P. V. Nara-simha Rao, of a renewed challenge from within his party.
In his last public act, NTR. who was deposed as chief minister of Andhra Pradesh by his son-in-law last August, accused Mr Rao on Wednesday of manipulating the tim-ing of the scandal revelations

to inflict maximum damage on his political opponents.

The corruption first came to light four years ago with the arrest of Kashmiri militants. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) began to

look at the involvement of politicians after a petition from two journalists.

universally known, deprives of the CBI, took a personal in- Oblivery, page 10

scandal late last year. Indian news reports said yesterday he blocked the prosecution of eight more politicians whom the federal police agency had sought to charge. Mr Rao has faced a tide of

ness to act against corrup-tion, which the BJP adopted as its main plank in its elecsanction the CBI prosecutions eems especially curious after his inaction last month over criticism of Sukh Ram, the communications minister. He was accused of favouring a company from his home state in the telecom privatisation.

The scandal centres on money paid by the Jain family of industrialists for government erument contracts and politi-cal favours, and laundered through black market foreign

But the political realign ments that are expected to follow the revelations have been put on hold by NTR's death. Mr Rao Joined tens of thousands of mourners at his lying-in-state at a cricket sta-dium in Hyderahad yesterday.

## Egypt's quiet militant protests his innocence

lan Black meets an exile who is high on Cairo's list of most wanted terrorists

ASSER al-Sirri is an un-likely assassin. Sipping | Five Jihad activists were Y likely assassin. Sipping Coke in the lobby of a London hotel, the balding, bearded Egyptian Islamist has a mild manner that belies furious complaints from Cairo that Britain is harbouring a leader of the infamous Jihad movement.

As Muslim fundamentalists ponder the fate of the Saudi Arabian dissident, Mohammed al-Mas'ari — now appealing against his deportation to the Caribbean island of Dominica - Mr Sirri, sentenced to death for trying to kill the Egyptian prime minister, in-sists he is innocent and abides by British law. Like Mr Mas'ari, the Egyp-

asylum in this country, but unlike him has heard nothing substantial from the Home Office since arriving in 1994. Poor, over-populated Egypt does not have the same clout as Saudi Arabia with its lucrative contracts for British arms manufacturers. On the other hand, no one has accused Mr Mas'ari of murder or involvement in

Mr Sirri makes no secret of his views: "The whole Egyp-tian people is in prison and we want them to smell freedom he said in his first interview with a British newspaper.

"There has to be rule by sharia [Koranic law] and the people must decide. If they can't do that through elections, they must obviously revolt against the government As for my presence in Britain, I came here in good faith and it is incumbent on me not to break its laws."

Mr Sirri hotly denies any link with the Jihad (Holy War) organisation, whose members assassinated Anwar Sadat in 1981 and which claimed responsibility last November for blowing up the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad, as well as for a series of murders in Egypt. "Do I look like a revolutionary?" he asks

Egypt insists he is one of six Jihad leaders operating from abroad Foreign Office diplomats have heard repeated complaints in Cairo and London but have received no hard evidence of his guilt. Born in Suez in 1962, Mr Sirri admits to a long history ties, peaking with the death sentence, imposed in absentia by a military court, for his al-leged role in the bombing of the motorcade of the prime minister, Atel Sidki, in No-

hanged for that crime but Mr Sirri insists he was in Sudan when it happened. He was also in detention in Britain under the immigration laws in 1994 — for eight months until he was freed on bail — at a time he was named as meeting a Muslim Brotherhood activist in London, a charge that surfaced in a second trial last year where he was jailed for 15 years. again in absentia. Mr Sirri says he opposes

violence against innocent



There has to be rule by sharia and the people must decide. If they can't do that through elections, they must obviously revolt against the government'

Yasser al-Sirri

people but is vague about how innocence is defined. He Jihad members, including Ayman Zawahri, the organisation's Swiss-based leader. But Jihad statements started appearing on the fax machine of a London-based news organisation shortly after Mr Sirri was given the number.

"The Egyptian authorities are trying to say that they've solved the problem of terror-ism inside the country, so now they are talking about people abroad," he says.

Additional reporting by Nico vember 1993. Mr Sidki sur- las Pelham.

#### News in brief

#### Kwasniewski threatens poll

Poland's president, Aleksander Kwasniewski, issued a veiled threat on a visit to Brussels yesterday to call new general lections if the country's political stability was threatened by proliferating allegations that the ruling Democratic Left Alnists) was riddled with people spying for Russia, urites John Pulmer in Brussels.

Refugees riot Malaysian police yesterday fired teargas at Vietnamese boatpeople housed in a refugee camp outside Kuala Lumfire to two of their barracks,

witnesses said. — Reuter.

**Generals arrested** Three retired South Korean army generals were arrested yesterday over the 1980

#### Kwangju massacre of pro-de-mocracy protesters. — Reuter. Rwandans flee

About, 15,000 Rwandan refuborder with Tanzania vester day after fighting in north-east Burundi forced the clo-

#### sure of their camp. - Reuter. Claim for funds

Licio Gelli, aged 76, the convicted former head of Italy's P-2 Masonic lodge who is appealing against a 17-year jail term, yesterday sought con-trol of £68 million in Swiss banks frozen since he was arrested in 1982. — AP.



In the world before the 19th century people did not have jobs, they did jobs. In preindustrial Britain, jobs weren't provided by an employer, they were things that needed to be done in a certain time at a certain place. Now the world is beginning to turn full-circle.

Review **page 4** 

## $\mathit{The}$ Guardian

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## A growing life of crime

Mr Howard must know prison isn't the answer

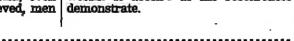
EVERY silver lining ends in a black are much less likely to grow out of cloud — particularly with crime. Four crime. The researchers suggest one months ago there was a fullblown press reason why this trend has not been conference at the Home Office to mark the second successive annual fall in official recorded crime. Four months on a new report from the Home Office was released without fanfares yesterday with a much more ominous message: the possible emergence of a lifetime criminal class beyond a traditional hardline core. Produced by the Home Office research department, the report reaches the astonishing conclusion that many young men are no longer growing out of crime even by their mid-20s. Indeed, unlike officially recorded convictions, which show criminality among males dropping steeply after the age of 18, the new survey shows criminal activity continuing to rise through to 25. The survey of 2,500 young people was confined within the 14 to 25 age group in the belief that it would embrace their entire criminal careers. Instead, the young people reported an ever-rising participation rate right up. to the cut-off point: beginning at 17 per cent for 14 to 17-year-olds and rising to 27 per cent for 22 to 25-year-olds.

Girls still conform to old patterns. They grow out of crime. Although between 14 and 17 they are now nearly as likely as boys to be involved in offending, by their early 20s their rate of offending is five times lower than their juvenile rate. The traditional transition from immature adolescent to mature adult (leaving school, leaving home, becoming economically independent, forming partnerships, creating new families) corresponds with an end to criminality for most women. But for males, the pattern is quite different. Firstly, they are less likely to leave home, enter stable relationships, form new families and become economically independent. More serious still, even when this transition is achieved, men

picked up by official statistics could be a tendency for males to resort to less

risky and harder-to-detect crimes.
The report should be sounding alarm bells in Whitehall. This is the first-ever official study of youth crime based on interviews. It provides a much more accurate picture than official statistics which cannot include the huge number of unreported or unrecorded crimes. It makes complete fools of the succession of ministers who have denied a link between crime and unemployment. Michael Howard may wish to avert his eyes from the hundreds of thousands of young men without work but his own researchers show how short-sighted this approach has become. It is just four years since a bold Metropolitan police officer exposed the nakedness of the current crop of home secretaries. Unlike the academics and their caveats, Commander David Stevens was blunt and truthful: the central reason for crime was "the quality of our life ... social and economic malaise ... a definite link between social conditions and crime figures".

Mr Howard's researchers agree. Commendably, there is a chapter at the end setting out what works. Nowhere is there anything as simplistic as prison. They concentrate on prevention rightly supporting programmes which might make Michael Howard choke: more support for families, more preparation for parenthood classes, improving parental supervision, reducing truancy and school exclusion, more schoolparent contracts. Once upon a time a Tory home secretary would have agreed. Tories were the party of the family. Families were complex. Now it's easier to chant cheap mantras: prison. works. It doesn't as his researchers



Calling Saddam Hussein's bluff We don't know if his food-for-oil move is real so let's test him

WITH NO end in sight to the UN destruction of Irag's weapons of ma says it is prepared to discuss the foodfor-oil deal which has long been on offer from the UN as a way of relieving the malnutrition and ill-health caused by the trade embargo. But is Saddam Husbe genuinely interested in picking up a UN proposal with which he has been playing political acrobatics since 1992? Or is this another one of Saddam Hussein's defiant teasers aimed at reminding the international community that five years after the Gulf war, he is still calling the tune in Baghdad? Where Saddam is concerned, there is always a risk of miscalculation. Look no further than this week's confessions from President Bush and General Norman Schwarzkopf that they had grossly underestimated the Iraqi leader's staying power, and had been quite wrong to assume that he would fall within months of Iraq's eviction from Kuwait. It might be similarly misleading to think that the fall-out from Iraq's acute food shortages has become so politically dangerous to Saddam that he is being driven to do a deal with the UN which he has consistently condemned as "an affront to (Iraq's) sovereignty."

Under the UN proposal Iraq would be permitted to sell a limited amount of oil with two thirds of the proceeds used to buy food and medicines, with the rest paid into a reparations fund for Kuwait and applied to defray the costs of the be called. And if he is serious, then all UN special commission overseeing the | the more reason to be constructive.

food deal is given a serious chance. Saddam's bluff, if it is only that, should

sein under enough domestic pressure to lution, Iraq could sell \$2 billion of oil agreement have always broken down. is to reconcile it with such a concession, Iraq's deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz has also told Dr Boutrostion 986 as interference in the country's internal affairs. It is certainly worth flexibility in his talks with the Iraqis. It leave-it attitude on resolution 986. Allowance should be made for some face-saving concessions. There is a Iraq's people. It is vital that the oil-for-

#### sanctions regime against Iraq, Baghdad destruction. The money would be placed in a UN escrow fund. This proposal was first made in a 1992 Security Council resolution and was renewed last April on improved terms in resolution 986. According to the current resoover a six-month period, with the door left open to the Security Council to renew the process for further periods of six months. Until now, intermittent negotiations aimed at securing Iraq's Now, for the first time, Baghdad has seized the initiative "to start a dialogue without preconditions." Hard though it Ghali that Iraq still objects to resoluprobing Saddam's intentions. Indeed the Security Council should allow the UN Secretary-General to have some would be wrong to insist on a take-it or mass of evidence from international bodies that UN sanctions have had a disastrous effect on the well-being of



#### Letters to the Editor

## in the pen

ALTHOUGH the Home Office now seems prepared to modify the barbaric practice of keeping pregnant women shackled until they actually go into labour, there would seem to be no extension of this "mercy" to those who are otherwise needing to be in hospital. You report (Prisoner keeps chains, January 17) the failure of a second attempt to secure bail for an HIV-positive woman shackled 24 hours a day in a word of a London hospital. day in a ward of a London hos pital. compelled, it would seem, to empty her bowels and bladder while chained to a man on the other side of a lav-

In The Informed Heart, In The Informed Heart, Bruno Bettlehelm describes one of the ways in which Nazi concentration-camp guards psychologically coerced their captives into submission: deliberately controlling their freedom in regard to the elimination of bodily wastes. Have standards of decency, never mind humanity, fallen so low mind humanity, fallen so low in Britain in 1996? (Prof) Terence Morris.

23 Eastgate Street, Winchester, Hants SO23 SEB.

class A drugs in Stocken and Ashwell, and many of my friends being released with heroin habits. After my own cousin's death from a heroin overdose (aged 23), I decided to take a stand, and handed in to staff here at Stocken and at Ashwell seven syringes, two bottles of testosterones, ecstasy tablets, heroin and cannabis to the value of about £500. Now I find myself in soli tary confinement, as I'm told by the governor at Ashwell that I have been rocking the boat and upsetting prisoners. George Rowlett. HM Prison Stocken Leics LE15 7RD.

RE SHEEP-counting numerals (Letters, January 13 and 18); as a child I came across the first 10 in Monica Edwards's The Summer Of The Great Secret. They were said to come from Borrowdale, Cumberland. I wrote asking for more and so learned the following: yan, tyan, tethera, methera, pimp, sethera, lethera, overa, dovera, dick, yan-a-dick, tyan-a-dick, tethera-dick, methera-dick, bumfit, yan-abumfit, tyan-a-bumfit, tetherabumfit, methera-bumfit, giggot, yan-a-giggot ... "And so on," finished Ms Edwards, to

my frustration. Ailsa Cregan. 76 Wood Close, Hatfield, Herts AL10 8TX.

## Arthur, you didn't ask us | Economical with the service

right when he points to the frustration of thousands of people disenfran-chised by New Labour and by our present electoral system (We're moving home, January 15). The problem is that the process by which he has founded the SLP has disenfran-chised many future supporters of a party of the radical left. On the Continent, effective

parties to the left of social democratic parties — like the United Left in Spain or the Green Left in Holland — have been the result of years of careful, democratic negotiation and joint work between a range of Socialst, Communist, Trotskyist, left green and left nationalist organisations. Be-lieve it or not it can be done!

By contrast, the Socialist Labour Party has been set up in two months between the in two months between the proposal and the agreement on the constitution, by a small group of people without any effort to discuss or negotiate with sympathetic political or campaigning organisations, including menus in the Labour. including many in the Labour Party, over timing, strategy and structure. It is a botched

beginning to a sound idea.
The additional difficulty the timing is right for maximum support and for inclusive alliances to be built. Instead, the SLP is reproducing all the institutional sectarian-ism of Labour, Old and New. The rest of the left should

RTHUR SCARGILL is not respond to it in kind, how-right when he points to ever. Rather, we should learn the frustration of thouwhere it gets off the ground, work with it on the issues of proportional representation, shorter working hours, decent pensions and democratic pubic ownership, on which Scar gill is at his best. Hilary Wainwright.

Editor, Red Pepper, 3 Gunthorpe Street,

KEN LIVINGSTONE'S bizarre prognosis for the future of the next Labour government (The Party's not over, January 18) flies in the face of all we know about Tony Blair's new Labour Party. But leaving that aside, I must comment on what he says about me and the forthcoming book I am writing with Roger Liddle, The Blair Revolution. He claims that it will contain "thinking against the welfare state" and talk of a "merger with the Liberal Democrats". He presumably bases this nonsense on a mixture of his crystal ball and inaccurate press speculation that I have already made clear is fallacious.

I am not sure if he will be seen a large rise in the use of | which the left faces in Britain, | relieved or disappointed by of a first-past-the-post elec-toral system, would seem to imply the need to be even find something in its outline more careful to ensure that of Labour's plans for economic, social and political renewal with which he can agree. It would make a pleasant change. Peter Mandelson MP.

House of Commons, London SWIA QAA

## T was distressing for an ad-mirer of Ken Livingstone to

read his comments (January 15) on those of us who look towards Arthur Scargill's

Socialist Labour Party. Ken called us "nutters" and accused the miners' leader of

"opting out of the struggle over the future direction of a Labour government".

Your political correspon-dent has since reported that in

a New Labour government
"Mr Blair might welcome a
deal (with the Lib Dems)
which frees him from dependence on leftwing back-

Maybe we true Socialists are more realistic than those who

choose to stay in New Labour (or SDP Mark 2). Catherine Thackray.

YOUR assertion (Leader, January 15) that the left in the Labour Party will re-assert itself, if and when a

Blair government ambarks on policies which are strongly op-posed within the unions, ex-

hibits a poor grasp of the his-

All such previous attempts have collapsed when con-

fronted by the rallying call of

"Don't rock the boat" — a

mentality that Blair has now

fine-tuned into a complete

ideology. M A Woodgate.

Essex CM11 1ED.

Billericay.

8 Foxhunter Walk,

Reap Hirst Road, Birkby, Huddersfield HD2 2DD.

SHARE the apprehensions of Lord Bancroft (An ethos up for sale, December 20) on the implications of the Government's decision to privatise its Recruitment and As-

The RAS (like their precursors) are sometimes accused of being slow-moving and organisation can carry out the same tasks more respon-sively and effectively, that is to be welcomed, though I am not convinced that privatisation is a necessary condition for achieving it. A privatised RAS will no doubt be freer to compete for non-governmen-tal business and earn a little money in the process. My fear is that these potential benefits may be outweighed by the po-

In so far as the privatised RAS are carrying out services for government, it is of the utmost importance that they continue to carry them out integrity and probity of the public service as their primary duty. We pride ourselves on maintaining the traditional virtues of integrity, probity, political impartiality tory of the party in and freedom from corruption government this century. ment by open competition on merit alone, supervised by an independent body protected from political or any other interference, is one of the formdations on which that tradition is built, and one of the

guarantees of its preservation. We are so used to the tradition that we tend to take it for granted, and think of it as an eternal and inviolable verity. monumentum oure perennius. It is not: it is something that our forebears had to strive to achieve and we have con-stantly to tend it if we want to maintain it. It is a living and vulnerable plant not immune from damage; and, if it were damaged, even inadvertently, it could take years - a gen-

Section of the second

5

eration — to restore it The working of the RAS needs to be managed with that consideration — not profit — primarily in mind. Maintaining what Lord Ban-croft has described as the public-service ethos must be the first of the duties for which those responsible for the RAS are held accountable. If we cannot be confident that this will be preserved in a pri-vatised RAS, then it would be better not to privatise the

RAS at all. Lord Armstrong. (Head of the Home Civil Service 1983-87.) House of Lords, London SW1A 0AA.

#### Rock 'n' poll

THAT it has taken until now for a campaign such as Rock the Vote (Rocking the young into vote awareness, January 15) to be launched in the UK shows how little is thought of the votes of young people. Mainstream political parties do very little to encourage the young electorate to participate. Yet their votes are profoundly important and young people should be en-

couraged to understand and contribute to politics. With so much disarray over controversial subjects such as Europe, schools have difficulty in deciding what to teach and how to teach it. Thus it is left to campaigns such as Rock the Vote to raise awareness. Political parties must change their opinion of young people. They must be prepared to listen to the needs, and understand the

YOUR BRAIN PIERCE D issues, which concern the

young electorate. They must make policies which address a representative cross-section of the population, from the elderly to the young. And it must be done now, or cam-paigns such as Rock the Vote will do nothing but reveal the

inadequacies of politics.
This campaign must remain politically neutral because making the choice between political parties is difficult, especially when there

directed at the young electorate. Richard Tate (19). 5 Bainton Road, Tipthorpe, Nr Driffield, East Yorks YO25 9LF.

Letters to the Editor may be laxed on 0171 837 4530 or sent by post to 119 Farringdon Road London EC1R 3ER, and by email to letters@guardian.co.uk We may edit them for clarity and

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A Country Diary

NORTHUMBERLAND: Due to | arrived in December and bethe warm weather we enjoyed fore the savage snowstorms. last summer, bird colonies on which swept our coast a few the Farne Islands off our weeks ago. Seals choose con-North-east coast enjoyed an siderable variation in breedexceptionally good breeding ing sites and this leads to season. The head warden, differences in the behaviour John Walton, is busy during of calves. Sites include rocks, the weeks early in the new year interviewing candidates for the 1996 seasonal wardening jobs - five on the Inner Farne and four on the Brownsman. All men, most of where calves are born high whom will have already had above the water mark or experience of work in conservation. "You have to be committed to work in comparative isolation for eight months," John told me. "But annually we get nearly 200 applicants. I shall spend the next month sorting them out. seen during the last few years is that 50 per cent of the wardens are likely to be vege-tarian." The St John Ambu-lance Brigade gives them first-aid training — with thousands of summer visitors on these National Trust islands, the men in charge have to be prepared for every even-

beaches of varying formation and extent, and vegetationcovered areas, usually at some distance from the sea. The safest sites are those where they can move out of reach of the waves,

Young seals do seem to adapt themselves to their surroundings, and those on the of the births on the beaches take place on an ebbing tide with some newborns well down on the seaweed. As the sea comes in, the pups struggle away from the water over the rocks and within a day or two these vulnerable youngsters will mostly have travelled well over the high

water mark. VERONICA HEATH

## Don't knock the living daylight

The Butterfill bill is too important to be talked into oblivion

THIS morning MPs will debate whether | cates that an extra hour of daylight Britain should have an extra hour of | would not only improve the quality of daylight during winter evenings at the life, save energy, keep us in step with expense of darker mornings. John But- Europe and boost tourism, but would terfill's Bill is important and has the result in a significant net reduction in potential to enrich the lives of many people. The Prime Minister has been persuaded to obstruct it to avoid a night). A strong, but not overwhelming, possible political backlash in Scotland. MPs opposing the measure will try to talk it out so it disappears without that the further north you go the trace. Supporters need 100 votes to close debate and force a vote. The "payroll vote" of well over 100 ministers and others have been told to abstain on the closure vote so the Bill's success depends on Mr Butterfill rustling up 100 MPs on a dull Friday in winter.

depend on parliamentary high jinks rather than a free vote. Research by independent bodies like the Policy bill capable of enriching the lives of Studies Institute and the Royal Society ordinary people is not killed by time for the Prevention of Accidents indiand talked into oblivion.

accidents (increases in the morning being more than offset by reductions at Scottish lobby strongly opposes the measure even though research shows greater the net reduction in accidents. The only research disputing these findings was published this week by De Montfort University on the eve of the debate and nearly 10 years after the campaign started. If there is new evidence then the place to discuss it is It is absurd for a measure like this to during the committee stage when amendments can be taken. Until then MPs should ensure that an important

<u>tanàna mandra ny kaominina dia mandra ny kaominina dia mandra ny kaominina dia mandra ny kaominina dia mandra</u>

WHEN are the opponents ity has been even further port programme, traffic will increase — whether the bypass is built or not. But until admit that the road will bring in the latest poll. The 70 per huge environmental benefits to Newbury? No one denies that the road will damage the countryside to the west of the town. The issue is one of envi-David Rendel MP. ronmental balance. Do the

benefits outweigh the disadvantages? The present road, running through the middle of our lovely old market town, carries more than 50,000 vehicles

a day including 10.000 HGVs. These produce a buge and unnecessary amount of air pol-lution, as the notorious Newbury bottleneck frequently iams them solid. The arguments against the bypass have been consistently exaggerated. For example, the

modern design of the bridges over the Lambourn and the Kennet will reduce run-off into those SSSIs. Currently that traffic crosses the SSSIs on older, less effectively designed, bridges. By denying that there will be any envi-ronmental benefits, the oppo-nents of the bypass simply lose credibility. This credibility in the control of the bypass simply lose credibility. This credibility in the control of the bypass simply lose credibility. This credibility is a control of the bypass simply long-term, integrated trans-

cent backing for the road gives the lie to the protesters' claim to have the majority of public opinion behind them. House of Commons. London SWIA OAA.

Just who is bypassing the truth at Newbury?

T was very kind of Frank Dumbleton to come to the aid of East Ilsley in his attack on David Rendel MP (Letters, January 18), but he was not speaking for me or for most of East Ilsley's residents. We know that we live next

to a trunk route/designated Euro-route. We also know that, until the Newbury western bypass is opened, the 40,000 vehicles with national and international destinations that pass our village every day have no alternative but to join local traffic and crawl through Newbury.

The Newbury bypass in itself will not attract more traf-

through traffic separated from local traffic, Newbury will not be able to solve its local transport problems. Jo Hawkins.

Montpelier Stables, East Ilsley, Berks RG20 7LP.

DAVID RENDEL MP is not the only Liberal Democrat whose actions contradict his party's claim to be environmentally friendly (Leader. January 17). Eastbourne's Lib Dem-dominated council chose to use tropical hardwood for its massive sea-defence scheme. After a long battle, Friends of the Earth finally won the concession that only eco-certified timber would be used. A couple of months later, this decision was reversed in a closed meeting of the council and work is go ing ahead using uncertified timber.

Michael Le Page. Co-ordinator, Eastbourne Friends of the Earth, 3 Chatsworth Gardens, Rastbourne BN20 7JP.

tuality. The last seal pups

### Diary

Matthew Norman

HAT ails my old friend Andrew Mor-ton? The world ton? The world speaks of little but royalty, and yet from him there is barely a squeak. The silence is easily explained: not satisfied with his reputation as one of the greatest royal watchers in the Daily Star's history, he wants, bless his heart, to be taken seriously. To this end, he is working on a biography of Kenyan president Daniel arap Mot. First the royal yacht, then Diana, now a dictator with one of the most criticised one of the most criticised human-rights records in human-rights records in the world . . . perhaps understandably, a cynical African press believes that Moi has personally ap-pointed Andrew as his hagiographer. When I call Andrew to discuss it, the answerphone directs "media enquiries" (those ghastly hacks, plaguing the poor fellow all the time) to Lizzie at his publishers, Michael O'Mara. Lizzie promises that the book will be "an objective account". and that the idea for the book was not Moi's but the publisher's. But why would a publisher with an urge for a Moi blography see Andrew as the obvious man to write it? "I have no idea,"

EANWHILE, there are already signs that Andrew's new seriousness is affecting the royal-reporter chums he left behind. Harry Arnold's analysis of post-structural feminist expression in the sub-Saharan novel has been refused by Granta, but the journal (under new editor Brian Hitchen) has taken Ross Benson's "At home with . . . " feature on Idi Amin's gracious Saudi Arabian house: it is called "Idi in exile: a Moses for our times". As for James Whit-taker, he is on a year's sab-batical from the Mirror to research "Pol Pot: the tears, the heartache, the truth behind the mask".

says Lizzie, whose com-

pany, she says, does not pay large advances. Meanwhile,

Andrew keeps popping off

to Kenya for research, pre-sumably funding the trips

himself and treating the en-

tire project as a loss-leader.

And all this, just for a tiny

sprinkling of gravitas? It's

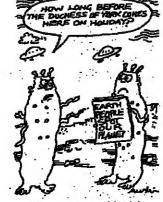
amazing.

LAS, my friend Lord Wyatt of Weeford has been ill-treated by the News of the World. which has demoted his elegant column to a fortnightly slot. Although shifting the grail for recent NoW editors, none succeeded until Phil Hall. When Mr Hall nervously raised the subject over lunch, Woody became irate. He would, he blustered, raise the matter with his friend Rupert Murdoch personally. "Erm, actually, I've already talked to him about it," said Mr Hail. Deflated. Woody withdrew himself within his huge bow tie, and began to jabber piteously. Even though he will pick up the same £120,000 for half the work, it brings a tear to the eye.

HE first issue of Going For Green magazine ("Making a world of difference together") has arrived, and splendid it looks too. On the bottom of the front page, for example, is a 14-point "green code" advising how to befriend the environment. Number three urges: "Save energy -switch off lights and appliances when not in use, and use low-energy bulbs." Further up the page, meanwhile, the organisation's Manchester headquarters. Churchgate House, looks magnificent, glowing in the pitch black of night like Harrods at Christmas time.

HAT heavyweight biographer Andrew Morton goes to Nai-robi next week, and I advise him not to bother hiring a car. Vehicle thefts are so frequent that locals call the city "Nairobbery", and it seems that high-ranking government officials may be involved. One pedestrian was surprised last week. reports Africa Analaysis, to see his stolen car driving past in the motorcade of a leading politician.

OARING above the nsual "You don't have to be mad . . ." stan-dard of facetious pub signs is this effort, reported by a reader who saw it in a Bang-kok bar: "We not take cheque. It bounce, we get angry. Better you get angry." Charmingly put.



## With friends in the North like these

## Commentary

#### Peter **Preston**

Y OLDEST friend in the North was called David Logan. He would have been 126 this year. He was 92 when I got to know him: still a Labour MP after 33 years in the House, still living up the terrace stairs at 362 Scotland Road, Liverpool (which Peter Flannery presumably designated Bleasdale/Scouse territory as he beaded off for TV

Geordieland).
I remember long front-par-I remember long front-parlour evenings with Logan, a
wizened scrap of a man, taking notes and trying to make
his life the story of the Twentieth Century Labour Party, a
romantic epic of struggle and
success. It was the prime moment for writing: 1963, with
Harold Wilson beginning to
turn white hot and a pulsation of change. Davie, from
his front window amongst the his front window amongst the

then. Half-a-mile away at City

Hall, John Braddock and Bessie - two blocks off the old chip - were the last of the chip — were the last of the bosses clinging to power whilst a young Eric Heffer hopped up and down; and the first stirrings of Liverpool Liberalism — middle-class populists for a cleaner government — were already eroding working-class support down some of the less mean streets. mean streets.

It was juicy. It was on the move. It was the nearest thing to Boston (Mass) that Britain had to offer — unless you in-cluded the Grozny that was Alderman Hugh Platt's Birkenhead just across a murky

And Logan had seen it all. What a tale he might tell— except that he didn't. He had his memory. He still had his seat in Parliament. But there wasn't an ounce of romance to a relentlessly matter-of-fact rendition of meetings attended and decisions reached. He had never thought of himself as a player

throng of pawnbroker shops, | on any kind of political stage, from his long machine career | He went here and there, did from his long machine career in Mersey politics, from his this and that, and hapmany in Mersey politics, from his this and that, and hapmany three backbench decades at three backbench decades at three backbench decades at three his constituents where his constituents queued for interview. Kindly, shrewd, diligent: without a sliver of vaulting emotion. I remembered David Logan

for the first time in decades this week as Peter Flannery and his fictional friends from the other side of the North began their own epic journey across nine Monday nights. across nine Monday nights. Were they remotely real, Nicky and Geordie and Tosker and Mary? Or were they secondhand clothes wearing secondhand clothes— Love On The Dole meets John Brainless for A Kind Of Loving: shades of a departed world recreated from plsys, books and movies rather than books and movies rather than any experienced semblance of real life? Open tha' legs lass,

Monday.

My friends from the other side of the North knew all about hard times, and could certainly rouse fleeting spasms of rhetorical solidarity (occasionally turning to outright sentimentality).
They could be shaken and stirred.
Graham Shankland's con-

and thall be pregnant by next

crete masterplan for central

Liverpool stirred them in the conception, and shook them in the execution. They could be crudely cynical. But they were not, ever romantics — nor suitable subjects for comanticisation. John Brad. romanticisation. John Brad-dock, thin hair scraped across great square head, was bru-tally practical. He knew his constituents. He knew about leadership. He just bulled on with the job.

"I don't want to write any more essays about workingclass history — I want to go on living it," said idealistic Nicky in episode one. The truth is the precise reverse. Those who never were sixties' working class, but had decked themselves in ragged trou-sered philanthropy; those writers and class fugitives and kids who drank in politics at university; those latter-

The ruling municipal socialists of the North 30 years ago were battered pragmatists

day recruits to the banner of the ex-Viscount Stansgate they were the real romantics. The ruling municipal socialists of the North 30 years ago, by contrast, were battered pragmatists. They built and ran machines. They identified demands — like homes for the homeless — and satisfied them on the necessary cheap, bandying the figures of houses constructed like un-employment figures today. Corruption came, as it will al-stupid TV off.

ways come, mostly as a natu-ral product of long and un-challenged rule. But idealism as we now

write about it — the vision thing — was an alien concept imported by middle-class inimported by middle-class in-terlopers who had heard John Kennedy's upper-class song from across the Atlantic and had themselves, responded, deeming that this was now the way politics had to be con-ducted. Harold Wilson from Huyton, a pudgy pipe-smoke

Huyton, a pudgy pipe-smoker in a waistcoat, got the message early and started deeming at the double.

In one sense this is all a very long time ago. Drinka Pinta Milka Day, it said on one of Flannery's roadside TV poster sights — and the slogan seemed prehistoric. But in another sense it is all too close for period comfort. The stars of the sixties have barely faded into their graves. The Likely Lads they watched on telly after a council caucus on telly after a council caucus are still on screen. Peter Cushing and Rita Tu-shingham, straight from 1966, are on a channel near you

If Our Friends In The North

have a story to tell these com-ing weeks, I think it will only be a story — an attempt to turn work in progress into an epic with a supposed finale, a structured tale of romantic failure and disillusion. That's not the story the real friends in the North would recognise. They built things and knocked things down. Today they'd be knocking down the things they built. They wouldn't begin to understand stakeholder economies; but nor would they give Arthur Scargill the time of day. Get on with it lad. Get bloody weaving And turn that end, we at Bel Mond plc fixed

Repositioning

Sarah in the

royal market



Bel Littlejohn

OU KNOW, there's an awful lot of people in pain out there in this huge, frightening world of ours, and it's up to each and every one of us to do something about it." This was the slogan I chose way back in 1989, when I set up my public relations company, Bel Mond plc. And it's a slogan that's as relevant today in the

mid-90s as it was in the late-80s. Perhaps more so. Obviously, we at Bel Mond plc continue to do our bit for the poor. As recently as 1992, on behalf of and in conjunc-tion with Anita Roddick, we flew 2½ tons of Peach, Juni-per and White Chocolate Neck Scrub and Shower Gel to the former Yugoslavia. But we also go out of our way to act for clients who may be experiencing grave hardship in the glare of the world's media. The rich and famous can suffer pain too, you know. Just because you're featured in Hello! magazine — for which publication, incidentally, I have a lot of respect — doesn't mean you're not hurting deep down inside.

Were more instoric.

After Budgie, I gave Sarah a complete fashion makeover. We decided that the Princess Di "sporty" look was for her, so she would turn up at boxing gyms wearing a T-shirt divining the pain too, you know. down inside.

This is where good public relations comes in Bel Mond plc encourages the media to view our clients in a better light I have written before about the assistance we have given the Princess of Wales in establishing herself as a femi-nist icon. We have similarly transformed the public per-ception of many of my other clients, lending a more positive image to, among others, the water companies, Paula Yates, Vladimir Zhirinovsky, Hillary Clinton, David Montgomery, the Newbury by-pass, Michael Winner and Sizewell C power station. And I'm glad to have done

this past week on behalf of my long-term client — and close personal friand — the Duchess of Fork. If is, by now-widely known that Sarah contacted the shortly after her eration from the Duke of York, with a view to improving public perception, vocalising her personal assets and re-establishing her name as a quality product in the highly competitive interna-tional royal marketplace. As soon as the contract between us had been negotiated, I im-mediately warmed to Sarah.

"I see you as a strong wom-an, an independent woman, a woman who craves glamour and affection," I told her. "So we must get rid of your rather stuffy, frumpy, Duchessy

mage." As a means towards this

up that she should greatly enhance her media image by appearing topless in a sun-soaked paradise in the arms of a new boyfriend, preferably an American. As I reassured Sarah at the

time ("Wipe away those tears, love"), those original toe-sucking photographs made a huge impact on the world market, upgrading her status from royal frump to international jet-set celebrity and thus confirming her as a royal market-leader. We then set about capitalising on this sea-change in public perception by generating a suitable product to assist an upturn in product to assist an upturn in large-scale revenue-creation. "Tm 'thinking a book, I'm thinking a children's book, children's book we can write in the morning and get drawn in the afternoon," I said.

"Crikey!" she replied. Then she furrowed has been seen as

she furrowed her brow and whooped: "How about Grun-gie the Manic Depressive? No? Cruddie the Bulimic? No? Drudgie the Mother's Help? No?" She was close to tears, and hurting dreadfully. "Oh. Bel, you'll have to help me!" And so Budgie The Helicopter was born. It was dictated by midday and illustrated by teatime and the rest is publishing history, or would be if it were more historic.

with a cheery slogan ("Duchesses Do It On The Piste"), lime-green Lycra pants and waders. "Whatever you do, love, always walk with your mouth wide open," I advised. "Cos that way you'll be pro-jecting a 'mouth-wide-open' image. Believe me, the public will love it — I mean, just look at what it did for Donald

THEN taught Sarah how to keep herself in the public eye by spending at least three times her total income. "That way they'll adore the way you're a girl who's out for fun time." for fun, fun, fun — and then they'll feel desperately sorry for you when the bubble bursts. The public loves a loser — that's our philosophy at Bel Mond," Lexplained. As you can tell from this week's events, our overall marketing strategy for the I Duche ss of York has started to pay rich dividends in terms of her public image. And I hope that those who have in the past criticised those on the cutting edge of public relations such as myself and my good friend Lynne Franks will realise that it is a true science, as valuable to those who suffer in public as any amount of medicine. Future plans for the Duchess? My lips are sealed, but if you said "Work-Out Video, Fergie Diet Manual and Miss Royal Wet T-Shirt Competition", I guess you wouldn't go too far wrong. Yup. It's looking good.



## Publish and be damned

Maurice Drake believes the reduction of damages in the Elton John libel appeal may encourage newspapers to propagate lies for profit

month will have farreaching effects on the con-duct of defamation cases. I warmly applaud the significant changes made to the way in which juries may be guided as to the sum they should award as damages. But the decision rekindles debate on several issues. Will it encourage newspapers to run it held that the sums stories they know are untrue awarded, both for punishstories they know are untrue because they calculate that they will gain more than they will have to pay if sued for libel? Should punitive damages he abolished? And should the assessment of damages — whether for compensation or punishment — he withdrawn from the jury be withdrawn from the jury and decided by the judge

In the action by Elton John against the Sunday Mirror, the jury decided it was one of those rare cases in which the newspaper should be pun-ished in addition to paying compensaion for the injury it had done to the plaintiff's reputation. They awarded £75,000 as compensation, but a further £275,000 "exemplary."

damages. Exemplary (in other words, Exemplary (in other words, punitive) damages may only be awarded where it is proved to the jury that the defendant (usually a newspaper proprietor) published the libel knowing it was untrue but calculating that the prospects of sain outweighed the pros-

HE DECISION of the jury, but the jury are told that even then they must not award punitive damages unlished case last less satisfied that their award of compensation, plus the costs of the action which the defendants will have to pay, is not in itself sufficient to pun-ish the publishers and deter others.

In the Elton John appeal. the court upheld the jury's decision that punitive dam-ages should be awarded. But ment and compensation, were so grossly excessive that they could not stand. It substituted its own very much lower awards. The £75,000 compensation was reduced to £25,000; the £275,000 punishment was

slashed to £50,000.

Newspaper libel lawyers are bound to welcome this judgment very much indeed — it will make a libel action for less costly than it was. It far less costly than it was. It reduces the amount of compensation to be paid at the same time as it reduces the

punitive damages.
Some argue that punitive damages are unnecessary and should be entirely abolished. They say that the cost of a lost libel action together with the compensatory damages will always be sufficient punishment and deterrent. Furthermore, newspapers do not like being shown up as having acted irresponsibly; and this in itself acts as a strong

Only the publishers themcalculating that the prosof gain outweighed the prospects of loss they would incur
if ordered to pay damages and
the costs of a libel action.
This coldly calculated decision must be proved clearly to selves know whether these

on balance gain from publishing untrue material. I doubt whether a fine of £50,000 will be enough to deter any major tabloid newspaper from pub-lishing as a "splendid story" a libel it believes will bring it profit. The test of punitive damages is that the material gain from publishing a tarily agree a substantial known libel will outweigh the reduction in the award (such total costs that will result from a libel action. And there will not be a sufficient deter-rent to publishing known he could fight the appeal. But falsehoods unless the punish-if the defendant won, the ment remains high.

Punitive damages are only awarded when a jury is satis-fied that some additional punishment and deterrent is required. So I would retain

A jury is an eminently suitable body to decide whether this additional punishment is required. But a strong case required. But a strong case can be made out for damages — both for compensation and punishment — to be decided by the judge alone. I believe that the Elton John appeal future, both counsel and the interpret and the strong case.

may well lead to this.

Until that appeal, juries were given very little help on the sum they should award as compensation. Neither the judge nor the lawyers for either side were allowed to suggest an amount, nor even a bracket, however wide, within which the award should fall.

The jury could not be told what had been awarded in previous cases — except for the few cases in which the Court of Appeal had quashed a jury award and substituted its own (judge-made) award. Nor could the jury be told of the well-established scale of awards for personal injuries and invited to make an award for injury to reputation which bore comparison with compensation for personal inju-ries. All the judge could do was to urge the jury to be reasonable, and to bear in fendant will appeal. It would

newspapers have made a cal- | what such a sum of money | test the appeal and risk the culated decision that they will | could buy. | heavy costs. He will settle.

could buy.

It was not surprising that or awarded compensation which be that the jury as to the award of damages will be decisive. So why leave the matter to the jury at all?

" could not justify. In such cases the defendant appealed and the plaintiff had two alternatives. He could volumtarily agree a substantial reduction in the successful plaintiff and two alternatives. He could volumtarily agree a substantial reduction in the successful plaintiff had two alternatives. He could volumtarily agree a substantial reduction in the successful plaintiff had two alternatives. as in the case of Graeme Sou-ness: £100,000 was accepted in plaintiff would have to pay the costs of the appeal — which might entirely wipe out the reduced award. Esther Rantzen won £250,000 from the jury; but the Court of Appeal reduced this to

NE effect of the Eljudge may suggest to the jury the sum they consider appro-

£110,000. The costs of the appeal probably wiped this out.

the sum they consider appro-priate for damages.

Furthermore, the jury will be told the level of damage awarded for personal injuries

and asked to ensure that their award for injury to the plaintiff's reputation bears comparison with such comparison with such awards: eg about £25,000 for the loss of one eye, about £35,000 for loss of a leg, and ranging up to about £125,000 for quadriplegia resulting in total paralysis.

Consider what this means, luvies are to decide the sum.

Juries are to decide the sum to compensate the plaintiff for injury to reputation. But the judge will tell them the sum he thinks right, or at least the bracket within which their award should fall. If they go heavy costs. He will settle. The result will be that the

jury. So when the jury is told that its award for injury to reputation should bear comparison with awards for per-sonal injury, it is being told to make sure that its award falls in line with awards made by judges alone.

Are judges competent to de-cide damages for libel? The answer is that in many cases they already do so. Complicated cases are regularly tried by judges without a jury (the long-running Mc-Donald's case is a current example); and in such case

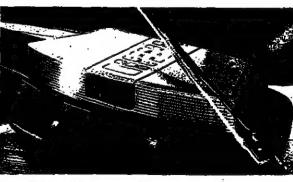
damages are assessed by the

judge alone. And where the Court of Appeal decides that a jury have made a hopelessly wrong award, it is the judges (albeit three of them) who substitute their own award — as in the Elton John case. I am a very enthusiastic supporter of trial by jury. I hope that juries will continue to decide whether a plaintiff deserves damages for injury to his reputation, and whether the publisher of a libel ought to be punished for seeking to make a profit out of publishing untruths.

But experience shows that invited the publishing th

juries are not well suited to assess damages. I believe that the Elton John judgment is likely, ultimately, to relieve them of having to do so. The Hon Sir Maurice Drake, as

Britain's senior libel ludge presided over the original Elton John case against the Sunday Mirror, and others involving Gillian Taylforth, Sonia Sutcliffe, Jason Donovan, Mona Bauwens, Teresa Gorman and Frank Warren. He was in charge of the libel list from 1990 until his retirement last June



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Ruling Puts Over Brent

N T Rama Rao

## Flawed star of India

variably known, was one of the most colourful of Indian politicians. He started working as a government clerk but soon moved into films in his home state of Andhra Pradesh, in Southern India. There was a flourishing film industry in the local language Telegu and with his commanding presence and deep, booming voice, he was a tremendous

heart attack, aged 72, starred in more than 300 films, often playing a member of the Hindu pantheon. His portrayals of Krishna, the hero of the Mahabaratha, one of the two great Hindu epics, won him millions of fans. He dominated the screens of Andhra Pradesh in a way that not even the greatest stars of the Bombay industry have been able to achieve.

He was only matched by the legendary MG Ramachandran in the neighbouring state of Taminadu who used his fan clubs as the foundation for building a political career, and rose rapidly to become Chief Minister of the State. It was his phenomenal political success that gave NTR the idea of entering politics in his

By good fortune Indira Gandhi's Congress Party, which used to regard Andhra secure bastions, was in deep trouble. Gandhi bad shown scant respect for the puppet chief ministers she appointed. Her son Rajiv, then serving his apprenticeship in politics had behaved in what was seen as an insulting manner to one of those ministers on a visit to the state capital of Hyderabad. The people of Andhra Pradesh felt they had been taken for granted, and were in a mood to look for an

Taking advantage of the favourable political climate NTR formed his own party called Telegu Desam, or the Land of the Telegus, in 1982. The following year in the election campaign for the Andhra Pradesh State Assembly he drove more than 50,000 miles visiting the remotest villages to ensure that all voters knew to Gandhi's Congress party, an alternative which would make sure they were not taken for granted again.

He took advantage of the difficulty many Indian cinema-goers have in telling the difference between stars and

Roger Suddards

example of public service in any field he thought might

benefit his native city of Bradford. A prosperous and con-ventional-looking solicitor, he

was extraordinarily well-in-

Raggle-taggle street cam-

paigns benefited from his

(usually discreet) advice, as

got up like one of the charlots of the Gods. It was as though Krishna himself had come as ruler of Andhra Pradesh.

The act was as astounding a His party, which had only had one year to establish itself, Gandhi was not amused. She sent Rajiv and a cousin, Arun Nehru, to plot a schism in the Telegu Desam. In spite of NTR's enormous popularity this did not prove too diffi-cult, loyalty not being the out-standing quality of Indian politicians. But, when the governor of Andhra Pradesh acted on Rajiv's advice and dismissed NTR from the chief ministership, there was an uproar in the state. A month later the governor was forced to swear in NTR as chief min-Getting elected is one thing.

ulation of 70 million, one of the largest in India; is quite another. NTR with his autocratic, arbitrary, style was not a successful administrator. So in 1989 the voters de cided their God had failed, and re-elected the Congress party.

But the party had not learned any lessons, and in

press said, "a second NTR wave". It wasn't just NTR's charisma which brought him back to power. He also made two very attractive promises
— to provide the voters rice at and to ban the sale of alcohol Prohibition appealed dhra Pradesh, a state with a very severe problem of alcohol abuse among men. But NTR's return to the chief ministership was no smoother

government. His first wife by whom he had six sons and four daughters had died and he had married Lakshmi Farvati, a former actress much er who had nursed him back to health after he suffered a series of heart attacks

HE started to interfere in government and members of NTR's family obthe newcomer was huilding up a claim to the patriarch's political inheritance. They feared there might be another parallel with MG Ramachandran who was succeeded by a close woman friend when he

OGER Suddards, who has died aged 65 after a years, charming the artist missioners, and chaired the stroke, set a remarkable with his lightly-worn knowl. National Museum of Film.

edge of past and contemporary

culture.
After the terrible 1985 fire at

Bradford City's football ground, his 64 million disaster

appeal became a model of good

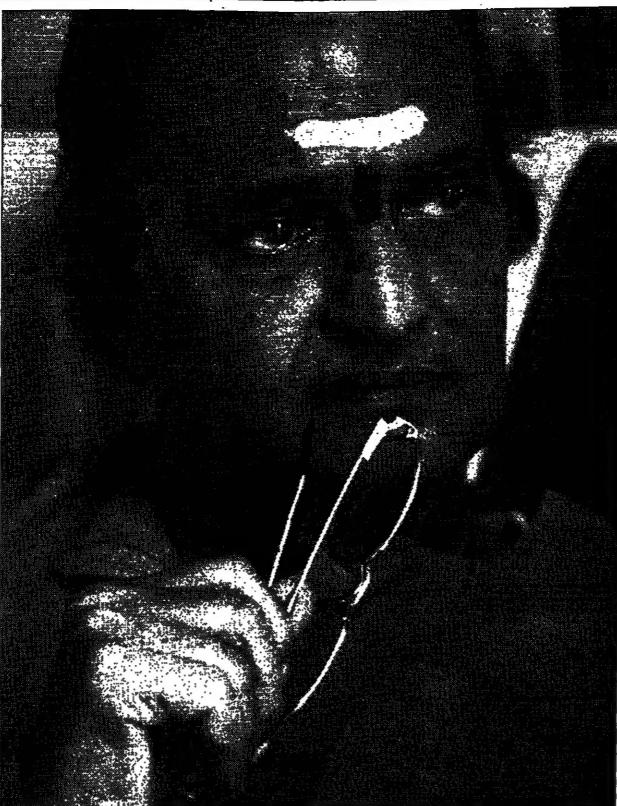
practice in a difficult field. The trust he established made

payments within a year, anon-ymously and without fuss, to

more than 400 relatives of the

disaster's victims. He also brought a northern

**Batting for Bradford** 



NT Rama Rao . . . he owed his success to the voters' insatiable appetite for heroes

NTR's son-in-law, Chandra Babu Naidu, split the Talegu Desam party and ousted his father from the chief ministership. At the time of his death NTR was planning a comeback in the Parliamen-

Although NTR was essentially an Andhra Pradesh poiitician he did play a role on the national political scene, heading a fractious alliance of leftist and regional parties called the National Front. command considerable support, particularly among the traditionally disadvantaged casts. The problem is that all the parties are like the Telegu m, riven with interne cine struggles.
Nevertheless NTR did play

a role in the 1989 general election which brought what was in effect a National Front Government to power in Parliament, and when that gov ernment disintegrated he did

tion, there would have been | has proved to be beyond the | Furious, the bull lifted him just the possibility that he could have found himself prime minister. NTR's career illustrates

many of the features which have disfigured India's deconomic growth. He owed his success to the voters' love of charismatic leaders, their apparently insatiable appetite for heroes which blinds them to those heroes' or, of course heroines' faults. He was first brought down by Indira Gandhi's refusal to tolerate any opposition and allow the | politician it was cinema that states even the limited freedom they should enjoy under the federal constitution. This had led to concentration of is not possible to look after the detailed administration of such a vast and diverse

country. His downfall could also be their roles by dressing in saffron robes, as he had when
playing Krishna on the
screen. He would drive
Parvati suspended several
through towns and villages

The rumblings within
from time to time suggest that
has hampered the growth of a
has hamp

power of almost all Indian chief ministers.
It is not possible to say who

will be his political helr, but the continuing success of MG Remachandran's party indicould have a long-term future too, if the NTR family agrees on a successor — but that is a very big if.

Lalit Mohan Joshi writes: turned him into an icon - a legendary Telegu matinee

For his debut, in LV Pra-sad's Mana Desam (1949), as a courageous police sub-inspector, he was paid approximately £23. In one scene the over-zealous young actor, tak-ing part in a police charge, ascribed to the venality of literally bashed the extras out Indian politicians who put of the studio gates. When power before principle, which asked to explain he said he

adviser to Caribbean govern-

He was also interested in

the arts and as a teenager co-founded Shipley Youth

Theatre with the future film director Tony Richardson, a local chemist's son. He de-

scribed himself wryly as a

frustrated actor, but his work

for the Bradford Playhouse

and smaller theatres, both in

free legal help and powerful

networking, ensured that many shows went on.

Suddards meanwhile chaired the Yorkshire Build-

ing Society and helped to steen

the early years of Bradford

University, serving as pro-chancellor and chairman of

and planning law.

Indian film star and political born May 28, 1923; died

requests for advice. He be- | council In 1993 he received an

came planning consultant for honorary doctorate. He was a the United Nations and an former deputy Lord Lieuten.

into the air, swung him round and threw him to the ground. NTR took the lead in 330

Telegu films, playing Lord Krishna in 17 of them. In Srimadvirata Parvam (1979), he performed the incredible feat of portraying five key roles — Lord Krishna, Duryodhana, Keechaka, Arjuna and Brihannala. He teamed up with nearly 50 leading heroines, in-cluding the well known stars popular in Bollywood and hence throughout India. All gentlemanly behaviour.

During some years of the sixties he made practically one film every month (he made 15 films in 1964). When 1982 he said: "I am not a man to be attracted by money, power or anything. We are all actors in the hands of destiny. We have to just wait and see what destiny holds for us."

Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao,

ant of West Yorkshire and was appointed CBE in 1987. His ubiquity in Bradford

could sometimes raise a sigh

of "it's him again", but he

knew the perils of the provin-

tered them with self-depreca-

tion. His omnipresence was

also a sign of the decline of the

public service tradition; in earlier years. Bradford might

have boasted a score or more

Suddards leaves a wife, Liz,

Roger W Suddards, solicitor.

born June 5, 1930; died Decem

of such benefactors.

and two daughters.

Martin Walswright

# The people's black voice

ARBARA Jordan, who has died of pneumonia aged 59, was the first black to be elected to Congress from Texas since the Civil War and played an even more important role on the judiciary com-mittee during the Watergate hearings. She made a speech of extraordinary power about what that Constitution had come to mean to its black

Barbara Jordan

"We, the People," she said, quoting the Constitution's opening words. "It is a very eloquent beginning. But when that document was completed on the 17th of September, 1787. I was not included in that We, the People'. I felt somehow for many years that George Wash ington and Alexander Hamilton just left me out by mistake. But through the process of amendment, interpretation and court decision, I have finally been included in We,

the people"."
It was a plain thought, plainly expressed, from a straightforward woman of how put into words the ideals of the civil rights era. She put into the sharpest focus the real issue: that Richard Nixon's attempt to steal an elec-tion through dirty tricks and abuse presidential power was polluting a constitution that was the common property of

Ironically, Barbara Jordan got into politics through the Texas political machine of another less than scrupulous pol-itician, Lyndon Johnson, as a volunteer licking envelopes for his 1960 presidential bid. When he lost the nomination. she stayed on to help LBJ become vice-president, orgatration drive in Houston.

His petronage steered her to become the first black state senator in Texan history in 1966, and briefly got her appointed acting governor. In 1972, Johnson's influence won her a coveted post on the

judiciary committee. She almed to increase black judges, and put more black students through law school, but, as the body responsible for impeachment, the commit-tee was quickly obsessed by Watergate.

Houston slums which she later represented in Congress. Her father was a Baptist minister who worked nights as a warehouse clerk to pay for her College education.

She went to the all-black more of Lincoln former officer in Tubo

Texas Southern University. team to national honours, and stunned the college world by holding the famed Harvard debatting team to a draw. She graduated from Boston University law school in 1959, and went straight back to Houston where she started her law practice on her father's kitchen table in one of the poorest ghettoes in the US. "All blacks are militant in

their guts," she said. "But that militancy is expressed in dif-ferent ways." Her way was to sign up with the white-run

Birthdays

\* Julian Barnes, writer, 50; Nina Bawden, novelist, 71; Michael Crawford, actor, 54: Stefan Edberg, tennis player, 30; Phil Everly, rock singer, 57; Jacky Fleming, cartoonist, 41; Patricia Hodgson, head of policy and plan-ning, BBC, 49: Richard Lester. film director, 64; David Newbigging, chairman. Council of the Missions to Seamen, 62; Nigel Nicolson, author and former MP. 79; Dolly Parton, country music singer, actress, 50; Sir Simon Rattle, conductor, 41; Mike Reid, actor, comedian, 56; Prof Andrew Samuels, pyschoanalyst and writer, 47: Dennis Taylor, snooker



and broadly conservative Democratic establishment and the oil interests. She swalsegregation because in the one-party state of Texas, it was the only political game in town. Her faith in Lyndon Johnson was fulfilled when he signed into law the civil rights acts of 1964 and 1965, ending segregation and outlawing discrimination. She became a kind of mas-

cot for the Democratic party, after declaring to the convention that nominated Jimmy Carter as the presidential candidate: "My presence here is one additional place of evidence that the American dream need not forever be deferred." She was also a keynote speaker for Bill Clinton. Jordan served three brief terms in Congress, as her district became steadily less black and more Hispanic, before retiring to teach and to grapple with the multiple scle-rosis that put her into a wheelchair. Never one to suffer fools gladly, she gave her graduating students a T-shirt that said I survived Barbara Jordan'. The best-known Texan journalist of the day. Molly Ivins, once noted that to interview her was "a bit like grilling God."

Jordan, who never married leaves a vast family of friends and admirers, black and

Barbara Charline Jordan, politician, born February 21, 1936,

**Death Notices** 

mony of Lincomy former officer in Tutura Association.

RASCHED. Fethma (Daw Thoung Meny, aged 85 in Caincy, Permeyivania on Tuesday 18 Lanuary, Beloved wife of the latis Burmese Muslim leader U Raschid, Indeligipable champion of the poor, the sick and fire opressed: President of the National Council of Women in Burms. Mother of Blief Reschid, architect, of McLean, Virginia and Dr Salman Reschid, Psychilatria; of Hampstead, London Greathy adored mother, grandmother and great grandmother and great grandmother may be seen the passes of the president of the preside

Acknowledgments

SLETCHER, Joan Mary, the family of the late Joan Mary Bielcher would like to express their success thanks to all family, friends, Shaffield University and ex colleagues for their cards and messages of sympatry, floral tribates, donations and hear statestance of the service at Porther.

In Memoriam

CURTIES, Joy. Dred 19.1 1991 Remem-bored and loved. Memorial Services

AMEADE James Edward, a colebration of the land work of Professor James Edward Made will be held on Saturday 2nd March 1986 at 2 Jöpm in the chapel of Trinity College Carbondge
O'BREEN, Lond - A Service of Trishlosgiving for the life of the Rt Hon The Lord O Brism of Lonbury, GBE, PC, FRCM, will be held in the Chapel of the Order of the British Empire, the Crypt, St. Peul's Cathedria at 11 Jüsen on Thursday, M. March. Those attending are requested to tate their seate by 11 15am for further information, please contact the Assistant Secretary, Bank of England.

much as a long succession of "Back Bradford" drives by the great and the good. He was view to English Heritage, as

different communities.



#### Rites and ritual

IT SEEMS that the coffins were ordered and the hangman and his three assistants flown in from the far north two days before the death sentences on Ken Saro-Wiwa and his fellow Ogoni activists . . . were confirmed by General Sani Abacha's **Provisional Ruling Council** 

... Two days later, at 9.30 in the morning, Friday 10 November, the Ogoni Nine, as they had come to be called, were taken under armed escort from the military camp they had been held in for the last 18 months to the regular prison in Port Harcourt. They were ushered into a

large cell which was empty save for a long wooden ben They hadn't yet been told about their impending executions. Along with the rest of the world, they never imagined that the government would kill them with such indecent haste, and on the very day the Commonwealth was meeting in Auckland

A few minutes later, an inner door opened and Ken was beckoned inside. He was immediately confronted with a priest, who proceeded to give him the last rites. Then he was asked whether he had a final request. He asked to see his wife. Hauwa. This was denied. He asked to see his 91year-old father to give him his pipe and wallet. This, too. was denied. Then the sheriff read out the death-warrant. then the noose was tightened

And then the story becomes bizarre, "It failed," a 'source" was reported to have said. "Try and try the hangman did, but it simply failed to work." Apparently, the lever refused to release the trapdoor, although it had

been successfully tested on a dummy that very morning. for the last four days in fact. They decided to try it out on one of the others so they led Ken back to the cell and brought out John Kpunien.

Photography and Television.

belping to ensure that its move to Bradford — derided

by some metropolitans - was

Bradford, greatly disliked his time at the boys' grammar

school, which turned out ruth-

less meritocrats much as the

worsted cloth. He left in 1946

with no qualifications and through nightschool family

Suddards, who was born in

a triumph.

brought Ken back again and again it failed. It wasn't until the fourth attempt that the lever slammed home, as it were, whereupon the military administrator of Rivers State, Lt-Col Dauda Komo, the same man who had publicly pronounced Ken and the others guilty even before the start of what passed for a trial; and who, now, at Ken's last hour, insisted on being personally present at the

down the makeshift scaffolding to make sure that he was well and truly in ession of his corpse. possession of his corpse. The latest of Adewale Maja-Pearce's Letters From Lagos. describing the circumstances of the execution of writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and nine others by the Nigerian government in November last year. Published in Index On

sickening spectacle, rushed

#### New era

 All households whose front. door is more than, say, 20 yards from the nearest public footpath to be required to have a mailbox next to the

Suddards . . . discreet advice

became head of a legal firm's Westminster branch by the age of 22. His speciality of

planning law brought him early public service appoint-

ments as well as international

· Abolition of the "Widdecombe" rules restricting the political activity of local government employees.

Replacement of the competitive tendering system for broadcasting franchises with a quality-based process of

• Beer pump clips to carry a list of ingredients and alcoholic strength. • Introduction of three new bank holidays in the autumn and winter.

men to be 16. Controls over the volume and price of wine sold by the · A beard tax to be placed on barbers and razor blade

The age of consent for gav

manufacturers. Compulsory deposits to encourage battery recycling. · Opening up of health au-Arsenal to be permanently

banned from the Football League on grounds of boredom and sanity. Tottenham to be declared an official Tory Free Zone and other areas encouraged

to follow the example. A national old age pension er's travel scheme. The New Statesman to be nationalised under workers' control and without compensation.

Responses to the New Statesman's invitation to its readers to come up with small-scale. practical, cheap and popular measures that could be introduced by an incoming Labour

#### Tick tock

IT REALLY was an amazing time. For a brief moment, London was at the centre of the universe. But one took it for granted. One didn't go around feeling privileged, you just thought. "Hey, we deserve this"...and the music! I remember the Beatles from when I still lived in Liverpool. I'd see them down the Cavern on a Friday night. They were just this little amateur band but they had amazing energy and rawness . . . It's easy to forget how influential the Beatles were. They affected everything . . . Why do you think we've got those dopey haircuts, that mop top crap, in A Clockwork Or ange? That's all related to the Beatles . . . There was a huge backlash [against the film], particularly in America. I remember being attacked at length in the New York



Times. It was ridiculous. I just aid: "Where's your sense of humour? Lighten up!"...I can only put [the film's with-drawal in this country] down to [director] Kubrick's paranoia. It's a watershed film and one that should be seen. The very brilliance of Anthony Burgess's story is that he didn't make it easy for us. Alex is an immoral character who has no compunction whatsoever about raping. beating and going on the rampage. But the point is, every-body, good or bad, should still have the right to choose. That's what A Clockwork Orange is about - freedom of cholce, not violence. Violence is just a by-product. Actor Malcolm McDowell, who returns to television screens in Our Friends In The North next week, interviewed about the sixties and all that by the New Musical Express.

Pound weight

Q. AT A PARTY for a bet I swallowed a pound coin. It didn't seem to do any harm but it hasn't reappeared yet. poison me or block my stomach. What can I do? A. LUCKILY, a pound coin is not made from lead, although it appears to float on the currency markets as if it were. Brass and nickel, from which it is struck, are relatively harmless when swallowed. The coin you swallowed has almost certainly been passed ages ago. It probably reappeared within a day or two and you missed it. Blockage of the digestive tract is highly unlikely as nature has designed our gullets to accept smooth objects. If you are concerned, you might convince your doctor to perform an X-ray. If you don't pass a pound, please let me know if there is any change. Money matters in the problem pages of Men's Health.

Jackdaw wants your jewels. Email jackdaw@guardian-.co.uk.: fox 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London -ECIR SER.

عكام الامل

Power regulator hits back at US critic, page 12

Tomorrow: Body Shop shows its social credentials to the Guardian

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

## Finance Guardian

Leading City firm looks into £15m tycoon's copper dealings after complaints from Chilean government | Notebook

## Lawyers seek bribes proof

the trading organi-sation headed by the £15 million-a-year tycoon. Charles Vincent - could be involved in the \$200 million Codelco copper scandal are being investigated by the City

legal firm of Herbert Smith.
The solicitors, which are being retained by the Chilean state-owned Codelco group, are trying to untangle a transaction executed by Winchester in January 1994, the Guardian has established.

Investigations focus on Chilean government claims that one of its own traders was paid huge "kickbacks" in return for giving commodity !

Richard Thomas and

USINESS leaders last

sion to cut base rates

night hailed the

Chancellor's deci-

after the latest figures for

high street spending showed that the expected Christians bonanza falled to materialise.

Sales volumes rose by 0.4

per cent in December to a new

record level, but the increase

was far more modest than had been anticipated following up-

beat trading statements from some of the leading chains. Some analysts had been

looking for a December rise of

at least 1 per cent in retail sales, but on the basis of

Office evidence any benefit

may have been concentrated

on the bigger stores, with

on the outlets struggling.

The Federation of Small

Businesses said the Chancellor should have been even

bolder and cut rates by half a

point to 6 per cent, and warned that the Government

would miss its 3 per cent growth target without a fur-ther reduction by the spring. Industry believes that with

consumer spending account-

British Industry, said: "The last year.

LLEGATIONS that Winchester Commodities Group—metal markets when it broke in early 1994.

The secondary preferential deals. The secondary preferential deals are secondary preferential deals. The secondary preference preferential deals are secondary preferential deals are secondary preferential deals. The secondary preference preferenc

Herbert Smith, famed for its aggressive commercial litt-gation, is "trying to get to the bottom" of the deal, according to a senior source.

Codelco has already lodged a High Court writ against an-other commodities business allegedly involved in the af-fair, the Belgian firm Sogemin. It is not known if the Codelco deal is linked to concerns which have been raised with Winchester Commodities Group by the Securities and Futures Authority - the reg-

ulatory body that polices ex-

cut should underpin a pick up in consumer spending and

support business confidence

which have weakened since the middle of last year."

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said

trimming the cost of borrow-

ing to 6.25 per cent would also build confidence in the hous-

ing market and boost the hardpressed construction industry.

This view was endorsed by

the British Chambers of Com-

merce, which reported yester-

day that economic activity was now flat after several

The BCC's quarterly eco-nomic survey of 7.664 firms

found that domestic sales had stabilised, factory exports had improved slightly — despite

picture cited by the Chancel-lor when he announced the

base-rate cut — and that busi-

ness confidence was starting

The only gloomy message

from the poll was a continued

decline in investment inten-

tions, according to Robin Gel-dard, president of the BCC.

He said a stronger rebound in

consumer demand was need-ed before firms would start

spending on new plant and

ber to December period of

The CSO's data showed that

months of decline.

to improve.

machinery

ing for around 60 per cent of gross domestic product, rising activity is vital both for a 0.8 per cent up on the previ-

recovery in both the manufacturing sector and the housing cent higher than in the Octo-

Adair Turner, director-gen- 1994 — the strongest perfor-

eral of the Confederation of mance since the summer of

recent Central Statistical the darkening international

change based trades

Chancellor

wins kudos

for base cut

made in 1993. The company in-sisted that the regulatory body had discovered that no City rules had been breached

Codelco and that six months ago it had a conversation about the dealings with the company's lawyers. The spokesman added: "It is our understanding that

Investigation by Dan Atkinson, Patrick Donovan, Chris Barrie and Paul Murphy

and had closed the inquiry. I there are general inquiries. It is understood however into all trades being carried that the SFA is continuing to out by all the brokers worldthat the SFA is continuing to examine various aspects of Winchester's operations which may also include the issue of its Chilean trades.
A spokesman for Winches-

Unichem

becomes

biggest

chemist

apulted itself from third to first place among Britain's drugs retailers with

2514 million agreed bid for

Lloyds Chemists, its second-

The deal is the latest in a

series of takeovers in both the retailing and manufacturing

sides of the drugs industry

that has seen the emergence of a handful of key players

within the sector. It continues a process that culminated last

tion of two of the biggest and

best-known manufacturers.

Weilcome and Fisons, and

AAH, one of the biggest

Yesterday's latest staging-

post in the concentration pro-cess gives Lloyds' founder and chairman Allen Lloyd a

windfall of almost £40 million while Unichem, already Brit-

emerges as the country's big-gest chemist with 1,300 stores.

Unichem will also increase its share of the wholesale

market to well over a third,

and in addition will become the biggest healthfoods re-

tailer, gaining control of Uni-

chem's 369 Holland & Barratt

The deal, which chief exec utive Jeff Harris confidently expects to go through without

a monopolies inquiry, is the latest in Unichem's rapid ex-

pansion since its flotation in

November 1990. Once it has integrated

Lloyds - a process likely to claim an unspecified number

of jobs - Unichem will be

well placed in both drug retailing and distribution. Its

next logical step will be to try

Mr Harris indicated yester day that Moss — Unichem's existing retail brand, and the name all Lloyds branches will

shortly trade under - will

move away from selling general healthcare products,

such as toiletries, and concern

trate on grabbing a bigger share of the more lucrative

and faster-growing prescrip-tions and over-the-counter

drugs market.
The risk in this strategy is

that the Government is con-

templating scrapping retail price maintenance, the price-fixing arrangement that pre-

vents drugs retailers from

to seize market share from

ain's leading drug whole

Outlook

lan King

placed rival.

wide who carried out business with Codelco.

Codelco — the Corporacion Nacional del Cobre de Chile

per trading on the London Metal Exchange. Seventeen firms, including Sogemin and Winchester, were used by Co-delco during this period.

The Chilean group has claimed its sacked chief futures trader. Juna Pablo Da-vila — now facing fraud charges in Chile — conspired with Sogemin. There have been claims of inflated commissions and improper pay-ments. Sogemin, a subsidiary of Union Miniere, has said it has seen no evidence that it acted improperly.

It also yesterday emerged that the major Prench bank, Credit Lyonnats has close links with Winchester Com-

ter last night admitted that it | \$200 million between 1990 and | modities and acts as its clear had carried out business with | 1993 through speculative cop | ing broker. Industry sources said that Winchester has over \$1 billion in credit lines with its major investment clients which are believed to include Sumitomo and several other

large Japanese institutions. Winchester also attempted to take over the major French commodity firm. Sucden. two years ago. It is understood that Sucden pulled out of the deal at a late stage. The commodities company

has come to public prominence because of the huge sal aries paid to its directors and staff. Mr Vincent's £15 million a year "fee", which comes on top of an unspecified salary, makes him one of Britain's best paid directors.

### Bank bides its time on inflation



Alex Brummer

HE reticence of the Bank of England, in the wake of Kenneth Clarke's decision to shave a further quar-ter point of base rates, suggests that the Governor, Eddie George, is not entirely at one with the Chancellor on the latest cut.
It may be within the spirit

of the operationl framework for monetary policy for Threadneedle Street to remain silent until the next minutes are published, on February 21, but that has not prevented Mr George's views from seaping into the market in the recent past.

indeed, one of the more attractive features of Mr George's rule at the Bank is that he says what he believes. He has made no secret of the fact that he thinks Mr Clarke backed an outsider in May, when he refused to follow the Bank's advice and raise rates,

This time around, there is absolutely no reason to be-lieve that Mr Clarke and Mr George are far apart in their judgment about the economy. But Mr George is plainly wary that it is the political timetable, of an election in the next 15 months, which is governing the Chancellor's monetary stance - and not pure economic analyis.

OTH sides of town are in accord on certain basic sconomic points. The weakening of the European economies, together with the loss of some of the UK's devalexport market, on which the recovery of the 1990s has been focused, is not likely to be a great source of growth in 1996 or for that matter cause capacity constraints.

If growth is going to move in the direction of the Budget Red Book target of 3 per cent, the stimulus is going to have to be at home. But the December retail sales figures do not quite suggest a boom on our

high streets. On a quarterly basis, sales volumes in the past three months were 0.8 per cent higher than in the previous quarter, and 1.2 per cent up on a year ago. Although clothing and sales were particularly strong in the final month of 1996 (when the discounting began before Christmas in some cases), in other sectors of the economy consumer spending appears relatively sluegish.

Similarly, looking at inflaprospect. Although the head-line rate for retail prices was up to 3.2 per cent (from 3.1 per cent a month earlier) the Bank's own preferred measure of RPIY, which removes the effects of mortgage rates cent — within target range.
This chimes with some thinking inside the Bank. It | silence.

ings figures, which are basically flat, and does not appear unduly alarmed by the Vaux-hall settlements just starting to come through. The slackness in the motor

industry, symbolised by the Christmas/new year lay-offs, suggests that workers there and employees supplying the industry will not confidently use the Vauxhall 4.6 per cent as a benchmark. Elsewhere, on the inflation

front there seems to be a feeling by those close to the Bank that the worst effects of higher imported prices, as a result of sterling's deprecia tion, already have fed through the prices channel To this degree the Bank and the Treasury are not that far

But it is the task of central bankers, who in the main have the luxury of ignoring the political framework of their decisions, also to assess the risk of moving too hastily in bringing rates down

this did not form part of Mr George's script at the Treasury on Wednesday. The Bank is known to be some-what concerned about the measure of monetary growth presently running near its ceiling at 7-8 per cent.

It is also concerned about the potential impact on consumption of the unleashing of locked Tassa funds, electric-ity rebates, building society takeovers, conversions and merger as well as tax cuts to come. This together with signs of some recovery in housing demand could conceivably, be inflationary further down the Bank's time

horizon.
Possibly, these factors will simply offset sluggishness elsewhere. However, policymakers are only too con-scious of what happens when together - historically it has proved an inflationary mix. It may have been possible to judge the mood better a little further into the year.

It is also possible that bringing UK rates down too far too soon could destabilise sterling. The pound intially strengthened on the Treasury move, but weakened later on, providing a reminder of how vulnerable it can sometimes

fearing that an earnings fam-ine could be on the way in 1996, was greatly relieved by the interest rate cut, allowing the FTSE to push to a high. However, the City must also recognise that there is also a downside in the current situa-

tion.
For the moment the Chancellor's luck is holding out as he seeks to underpin his tax cuts with the monetary easing which always had to come tion, there appears to be no lifthe ambitious growth target high drama in immediate was to be met. He has nothing to lose politically: the Conservatives are very low in the polls and leadership ques-tions have again surfaced around Mr Major.

Bringing about a feel-good factor is essential to survival. put at risk, do not expect Mr George to maintain his

gies are working." said IBM chief executive Louis

Gerstner. "In the fourth quar-

ter, the breadth of our product and geographic portfolio once again paid off."

The company's closely watched gross profit margin improved to 41.9 per cent in the fourth courter.

the fourth quarter, up from 41.3 per cent in the third quar-ter and 40.6 per cent a year

Services such as consulting

and developing customised data systems — an increasingly important business for IBM — saw revenues jump to \$4.1 billion.

IBM finished the year with

-16.1%

#### Treasury shrugs off surprise rise in inflation

DEARER petrol and tobacco from the November Budget coupled with a jump in Christmas food and household goods prices cent to 3.2 per cent. helped nudge the annual rate of inflation up to 3.2 per cent last month, the Government announced yesterday, writes our Economics Editor, Larry

The unexpected rise in inflation was shrugged off by the Treasury, which said almost half the 0.6 point rise in the Retail Prices Index in December was caused by the Chancellor's decision to increase excise duties on petrol.

gallon of four-star fell sharply after the leading filling station chains tried to win

point increase in December 1994, resulting in the annual

alcohol, personal goods and services and the decrease in the cost of home loans. Ex-

underlying rate to be 25 per cent or less by the end of this Parliament. For the whole of



Unichem chief Jeff Harris (left) with finance director Gooff Cooper PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOS

undercutting rivals, and quickly obtained an injunc-which ensures that medicines | tion against Asda, but the are sold at roughly similar prices nationwide.

The agreement exists to protect small local chemists, particularly those in rural areas. Which are often the only way in which the sick and elderly can buy medicine easily. But it was threatened last year when supermarket group Asda, fresh from kill-ing the Net Book Agreement, started discounting around 80 branded products. The drug manufacturers

risk remains that the agree ment, currently the subject of an Office of Fair Trading

review, may soon go.

Mr Harris — who predicted
that there will be some pricecutting at his own group —
was confident yesterday that
Unichem will not be harmed

by the review.

He expects items like vitamin tablets to be "delisted" from the agreement, but pre-scription medicines to be unaffected, resulting in little com-

mercial harm to Unichem That leaves the spectre of Boots, still Britain's biggest drugs retailer by sales, and which was last night bristling at the possibility of renewed

"The merger of Lloyds and Unichem will not provide any greater or lesser competition for Boots than in the past," said a spokesman. "We have a very strong corporate and product brand, and a customer franchise which no competition could beat."

#### **Ruling puts question mark** over Brent's £200m claim

Dan Atkinson

SETTLEMENT of the £200 million claim by Brent Walker against Grand Metropolitan may be pushed into 1997 by a High Court ruling

ting chain. Brent is making the claim under a profits war-ranty issued by GrandMet. GrandMet claimed both parties intended to use "acquisition accounting" in their treatment of the profits, this tends to flatter the profitability of companies.

The leisure group is claiming the money back following Brent has denied the claim. The High Court agreed with GrandMet. This will affect some but not all of Brent its £685 million purchase in 1989 from GrandMet of the Walker's £200 million claim. William Hill and Mecca bet-

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS France 7.39 Australia 1.99 Germany 2.18 Greece 383.00 Austria 15.26 Belgium 44.50 Canada 2.02 Germany 2-18 Malta 0.54
Greece 363.00 Netherlands 2.45
Hong Kong 11.60 New Zealand 2.25 Sweden 10.06
India 54.83 Norway 9-59 Switzerland 1.75
Ireland 0.95 Portugal 226.00 Saudi Arabia 5.65 USA 1.49 Cyprus 0.695 Denmark 8.43 Finland 6.74

survival.
"In the next few days, at

all sorts of levels, very in-tensive talks will be held." he told Dutch public television on the eve of a demonstration by virtually the entire 7.900-strong Fokker workforce at the Dutch parllament in The Hague. His pessimistic comments

an expected — but unconfirmed — meeting between Daimler chairman Jürgen Schrempp, Dutch premier Wim Kok and economics minister Hans Wijers over last-ditch efforts to per-suade the government to

Hopes fade of last-minute deal to save Fokker from bankruptcy

government injection of fresh capital into Fokker which is said to have nega-tive equity of around 500 million guilders (£200 mil-

"We wanted to know also came just hours before | had to the Fokker problem

and did not get an answer," said Willem Dikbuizen, a Jakaino goinu voices



nearly 20 per cent on the Amsterdam bourse. "That's hardly surprising as they're worth several guilders below zero," one ana-

lyst commented.

Fokker wants a further 2.3 billion guilders of capital to keep afloat, of which Daimler demands half direct. Daimler, which has paid its subsidiary's bills since August, is to hold an extraordinary meeting of extraordinary meeting of its policymaking supervisory board, the first for five

Romboud Klinkert, a Fokker spokesman, said the Dutch government had simply agreed to write off 900 million guilders in debt. "Well, they'll never get it back anyway," an ob-

#### **Buoyant IBM ends the year** on a billion-dollar note

Mark Tran in New York

BM marked a further stage in its comeback from the financial abvas when it vesterrobust 42 per cent jump in fourth-quarter profits to \$1.7 billion (£1 billion). The world's largest com-

puter company performed sat-isfactorily across the board. Personal computers and large systems sold well, service revenues soared and Lotus De-velopment, the software company acquired last summer for \$3.5, billion, enjoyed spec-tacular sales of Notes — a

communications and database program. Two million copies of Notes were sold in the past six months, more than in the previous six years.

"Our fundamental strate- on Wall Street.

its best profit since 1990, earning \$4.1 billion, compared with \$2.9 billion in 1994. News of the fourth-quarter results saw IBM shares jump \$314 to \$907, in early trading

Top hi-tech companies' reporting quarterly figures this year net profitifoss -136.7%Computer Associates \$222.7m + 27.8% Intel + 133.0% \$867.0m Sun Microsystems + 45.0% Advanced Micro Devices

in Memorian

Death Notices

back market share from supermarkets, but this will not show up until the Febru-

ary inflation figures.

Overall, the RPI showed price rises last month were slightly higher than the 0.5 rate climbing from 8.1 per

Price rises in December outweighed falls in the cost of cluding mortgage costs, the inflation rate rose from 2.9 per cent to 3.0 per cent.

The Chancellor's public aim is for this so-called rease excise duties on petrol. last year it was above this
This week, the price of a target.

EARS about the pending bankruptcy of Fokker intensified last night when Ben van Schaik, its chairman, said chances were fad ing for a deal between Daimler-Benz, its German majority-owner, and the Dutch government to guar-antee the aircraft maker's

pump more money into Fokker. Works council and union officials came away empty-handed from talks yesterday with Mr Wijers on a

lion) after losing 651 million guilders in the first half of last year.

Power attack 'offers false reading'



Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator (right), was in at the beginning of Britain's experiment with inflationlinked price caps. Despite widespread criticism for being too lenient on the industry and being forced to rewrite distribution price controls last year, he remains the system's most ardent defender

## UK controls leave competition on grid

Yesterday US expert Gregory Palast accused weak British watchdogs of failure. Today electricity regulator STEPHEN LITTLECHILD defends the system as a world role model

T IS surprising that the American Gregory Palast should find so much to criticise in the British electricity industry and its regulation compared to the situation in the US, when US regulators, companies and customers are actively trying to change their own systems to emulate key features of the new arrangements in Britain.

It suggests that he has misunderstood what is hannen ing in his own country just as he has failed to appreciate what is happening here in

It is not my intention to criticise US companies or their regulators. Many US electricity companies set high standards of efficiency and service to customers.

In achieving their own sig-nificant improvements in effiers over the last few years many of the British electric-ity companies have found it helpful to learn from some o the Americans and others.

The entry of US companies into the British electricity market is a further opportu-nity to transfer best practice in both directions.

Mr Palast places much

weight on the claim that on average domestic customers in the US pay less for their electricity than domestic cus-

tomers in this country.

However, there are large price variations within the US and many customers there pay more than customers in Britain do. There are other countries, such as New Zea-land and South Africa, where domestic customers seem to pay less than in the US.

And Mr Palast does not mention the many other countries, including Japan, Germany, Belgium, France and Spain, where domestic customers pay more than in Britain.

It is absurd to claim that these price differences reflect differences between US and UK regulation. Many factors are at work, notably the cost of primary fuels and the effect

by the fact that US electricity regulation requires nearly 50,000 experts and support staff. Many people might regard this as a measure of failure of regulation rather

of government policies.
Mr Palast seems impressed

NWest Water

PowerGen Bid for Midiands

Bld for Eastern

When privatised: 1990

Number of employees at privatisation: 82,480

Turnever: £15.4 billion: pre-tax profits, £2.077 billion

Last year's controversy: Long-running wrangle with government

Electricity regulator forced to rewrite price caps on industry after

over whether to give consumers any of the proceeds of the flotation of the National Grid. Takeover fever sparked huge gains for

Number of employees in 1994/95: 63,000

investors and senior industry managers.

allegations he had been too lenient.

Proceeds from self-off: £5.18 billion

Re-wiring the new power industry

£1.7 km

require such a formidable and costly bureaucracy? A major reason is that US rateof-return regulation aims to reimburse companies for their operating costs and guarantees a return on their investment.

What this means in practice is that companies devote enormous resources to per-suading regulators that they had to spend what they did spend, to inflating their asset bases, and perhaps indulging in some of the practices which Mr Palast deplores.

Small wonder that "entire buildings filled with accountants" are needed to track what the utilities are doing. But judging from the prices that US electricity companies have paid to purchase compa nies in Britain and elsewhere han a success.

Why does US regulation have been deprived of profits.

No bids for: Northern

Electric, Yorkshire

Electricity, London

E Midlands Electricity.

£2.8bn

mean higher profits. These achieved reductions in costs are then passed on to customers when the price control is The new distribution price control for example, will cut

sciously looked at US experi-

ence and sought to improve on it. The RPLX approach to price control which has been developed in Britain certainly

takes into account reasonable

operating costs and capital in-

vestment, and a need to pro-vide a return to shareholders. But it provides a better deal

for customers and better effi-

ciency incentives for compa-

nies in two respects.
First, the RPI-X price con-

trol does not look to the past,

not ask what companies have

spent, it asks how much less

they were more efficient.

the price control.

they would need to spend if

Second, by not clawing back profits that are achieved

under this price control, it gives companies the incentive

to be even more efficient, to beat the targets implicit in

In the short term this may

land and Wales by one third over the period to the year 2000, most of it in the first two years.
The same method of price

control has also yielded dramatic price reductions in other regulated utilities, no-tably telecommunications, gas and airports.
A further significant devel-

opment in Britain, increasingly admired by many Amer-lcans and others, is the use of competition in generation and supply to reduce the burden of regulation and to provide increased protection for

Admittedly, competition in generation in Britain is not perfect. But real progress has been made since the break up of the CEGB monopoly in 1990. Smaller competitors have ended, and new genera-tors have entered the market. The aggregate market share of National Power and Power Gen has declined by a quar-ter. It will decline further when they have discharged

In devising regulatory concapacity to competitors. Mr Palast's remark that no US generator has more than 2 per cent of the US market is misleading. It is no more rele-vant than to claim that the leading British generators

> There is no way in which a customer on the East Coast can get access to a generator on the West Coast, or a generator in Chicago compete for the business of a customer in New Orleans. For all practica purposes, most US customers are faced with a monopoly in generation from their local

> company. In 1998, all electricity customers in Britain will be able to choose their own electric to choose their own electric-ity supplier. Competition in supply will be an extremely important protection for cus-tomers against suppliers with high profit margins, inefficient methods, poor quality of service or high priced genera-

tion contracts.

Mr Palast claims not to understand how the supply of electricity can be separated from ownership of the wires is evidently unaware that half the electricity in Britain is already sold in a competitive

RANSMISSION and distribution companies have to make their wires available on the same terms to all suppliers, and these terms are regulated by price controls. Suppliers compete actively to purchase generation economically and sell it to some 50,000 medium and large-sized customers throughout the

As a result of competition, these customers have already benefited from significant reductions in prices, and im-provements in other terms of sale, such as aggregate billing for all their sites in the country, which suits them better than previous billing

the practical difficulties of creating competitive markets | rest of the world.

their undertakings to sell | in electricity or of implement parts of the industry which remain monopolies. But I have no doubt that it is better to make the electricity indus-try answerable through competition to all 25 million customers than to hire anothe 19,800 regulatory staff.

have less than a 2 per cent share of the whole European Britain is shead of the world in creating a competi-tive electricity market to replace the monopolistic structures of the past. Key aspects of the British approach have already been imple-mented across the world, in-cluding Australia and New Zealand, Norway and Sweden, Argentina and Canada. Many other countries are watching with keen interest

> In the US, several state and federal regulatory authorities have announced their intention to move towards the sort of competitive market struc-ture that we have pioneered

and learning from our

in this country.

Amongst other things, they are grappling with the problems of how to manage this change — in particular, how past uneconomic investments treated in the new competitive environment: how far to separate generation, transmarket on precisely this mission, distribution and supply; whether to create new kinds of electricity spot markets; how to design and en-force common carriage obli-

gations; and so on.
In all these debates British experience is of critical relevance. Yet these debates ap-pear to have passed Mr Palast

It is difficult to believe that US policy makers, regulators, and other interest groups would be as impressed with our experience if the industry and regulatory framework in this country were as deeply flawed as Mr Palast suggests. On the contrary, recent developments have enabled electricity customers in Brit-ain to benefit from increased efficiency, reduced prices and improved quality of service. The innovations in Britain have proved a model for the

News in brief

### Maxwell jury holds retirement record

THE Maxwell trial entered the history books yesterday as the longest retirement by a jury. Meanwhile, any verdict was further delayed when a second juror was reported sick, and the remaining 10 were given another day off. Last night will have been the jurors' eleventh in a hotel—they were sent out to consider their verdicts on January 8.

The previous longest jury retirement in an Old Bailey trial was in April 1982, when jurors trying the race murder of Terry was, spent eight nights in a hotel, including the Easter weekend. The jury deliberation in the May case — more than 56 hours — remains the record

hours — remains the record.

Kevin and Ian Maxwell and financial adviser Larry Trachtening deny conspiring to defraud pension funds. Kevin Maxtenberg deny conspiring to defraud pension funds. well denies a second charge of conspiring with his late father Robert to defraud pension funds, — Dan Atkinson

#### **Guinness in stout loss**

MORE than £303 million was wiped off the stock market value of Guinness after it warned that profits from Japan would be low than expected. Shares of the brewing and distilling group fell 3.6 per cent after the board said that further deterioration in the

Japanese spirits market will cause 1995 profit from the region to fall £10 million short of expectations.

The board also warned that it would take an additional £39 million charge in 1995, boosting the total to £84 million. The increase will be a fall to £84 million. will include £10 million earmarked for cost reductions at United Distillers' in Europe and £29 million for the restructuring of its struggling brewing operations in Spain. — Tony May

#### Murdoch son eyes top job

LACHLAN MURDOCH, Rupert Murdoch's son, said yesterday that he hoped eventually to take control of his father's worldwide media empire. Lachlan, 24, has been tipped to replace his 64-year old father at some point. He told the Sydney Morning Herald he thought he would make a good job of running News Corporation, although uncomfortable at media speculation on the subject. Lachlan is already deputy chief executive of News Limited, News Corpo's Australian arm, and deputy chairman of Star TV News Corp's Australian arm, and deputy chairman of Star T.V. News Corp's Asian satellite television service, as well as serving on an 11-member global strategy committee. — Ian King

#### **DTI to study Caradon report**

THE Stock Exchange said last night it had completed its investigation into dealings in Caradon shares ahead of the building materials company's shock profits warning last September. It has passed a report to the Department of Trade & Industry. The investigation was launched after a sharp fall in Caradon's share price forced the company into publishing its results two days

ahead of schedule. It is understood the investigation has centred on the sale of 10 million Caradon shares by merchant bank Robert Fleming's fund management arm, and on the role of analysis Martin Murch and David Reed, both of whom are now believed to have left the bank. Last night, Robert Fleming refused to comment. — Ian King

#### Diamond talks extended

CRUCIAL talks between the Russian government and diamond giant De Beers have been extended for one more month, a joint communique announced yesterday. The Russians, second only to De Bears itself in terms of diamond production, account for a quarter of world output and are seeking improved terms from De Beers in return for letting the South African group continue to market all Russian gems. — Don Atkinson

#### Speculators called to account

BRISTOL & West Building Society has raised the opening balance on three accounts to 22,500 in an attempt to deter speculative investors. The society's action follows moves earlier this week by Alliance & Leicester and Britannia to close membership accounts to new investors amid flotation rumours. — Citff Jones

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## BASE RATE **CHANGE**

With effect from close of business on Thursday 18th January 1996. Co-operative Bank Base Rate changes from 6.50% p.a. to 6.25% p.a.

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reduced by 0.25% to 6.25%

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## UN lauds multinationals' assistance to Third World

Richard Thomas on a new report

calculated to rile the aid charities

ULTINATIONAL cor-porations are boost-ing the economies of Third World countries by export markets and raising efficiency, the United

Nations declares today. In a report likely to pro-voke immediate condemnation from voluntary aid agencies. the UN Trade and Development arm says that multinational firms will create \$5 trillion (£3.3 trillion) of wealth outside their home countries during 1996, and will invest

heavily in poorer nations. The UN World Investment Report 1995, released today, argues that the global reach of companies such as Royal Dutch Shell, Exxon, IBM and General Motors is "a major factor in particular for countries struggling to catch up". With cross-border capital

| \$191 billion in 1991 — and a third of the total going to developing countries — the UN says that international investment by multinationals has overtaken trade as the driving force behind global economic integration.

On the eve of the report's official publication, Christian Aid accused the UN of IV ing the economies of failing to highlight the dis-Third World countries by injecting capital. opening fits, of the increasing activity of first world companies in poorer countries.
Peter Madden, Christian
Aid's head of policy, said:

'Transnational corporations have more and more freedom to go where and do what they like, with fewer and fewer social obliga-He called for internation-

ally-agreed minimum social standards, to prevent "social dumping", whereby poor countries are forced to dilute or abolish legal controls over working conditions in order to woo big business.

Cuts in the size of aid packages from the countries in the industrialised world were one reason poor nations were having to offer tax incentives, nobillion this year, up from strike deals and minimal motor firms as an example.

nouncement from the British government that aid payments are to be restricted to the very poorest 20 countries.
"This makes it harder to

volce criticism against the multinationals." Mr Mad-den said. The UN admits that greater liberalisation of trade barriers has forced

competitive pressures. "It is less and less poss ible for individual firms to retreat into the safe havens of home markets. Competition is everywhere", the In-

poorer countries to face

vestment Report says. But multinationals help Third World nations to adapt to new pressures by strengthening their productive capacity and training workers, the UN insists.

In addition, they improve their home economies by relocating industries that are losing comparative advantage.

The report cites the resuscitation of the British car industry by first American, and then Japanase,

### INTEREST RATE **CHANGE**

Allied Irish Banks, p.l.c. announces that with effect from close of business on 18 January 1996 its Base Rate was decreased from 6.50% to 6.25% p.a.

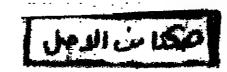


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## **Anger brings Becker back** from brink

David Irvine in Melbourne

in stout loss

son eyes top job

idy Caradon report

I talks extended

bors called to account

S)PERATIVE BANK

SE RATE

HANGE

T 17 it seemed astonishing. Yet at 28 it seems Boris Becker is still quite capable of setting away with it. Yes-terday, as at Wimbledon in 1985, he survived a second successive five-set match, this one from two sets down to keep alive his challenge for a second Australian Open title.

Becker, taken the distance

by Britain's Greg Rusedski under the Flinders Park lights here on Tuesday, looked down and out when he trailed by two sets to Thomas Johans-son of Sweden and slipped to

0-40 on his own serve at 2-2. Yet then, having been given the benefit of the doubt on a cross-court volley that many thought was out, he laid the foundations of a magnificent recovery with a sequence of eight points which tore the initiative from his 20-year-old opponent's grasp. Becker revealed that to

some extent he had been goaded to a positive response by the shouts of the rival fans — some of which, he felt, had overstepped the bounds of fair play. "I understand Swedish a bit and they were not very nice things they said. They were making me angry and basically it was that that saved my life, because my op-ponent sort of backed off a

Though he felt Johansson picked up his game again in the fifth set, Becker had found

sympathy for Johansson. A little less than a year ago he was contesting, and winning. the British satellite circuit at Bracknell, yet despite an al-most total lack of experience at Grand Slam level he not only lived with the world No. 4 but for two sets outmanocuvred him.

It was a tribute to the German's never say-die attitude, none the less, that this was the ninth time in his career that he had fought back from a two-set deficit to win. Worried he may have been but he never panicked. His serve picked up noticeably once the tide turned, with 13 of his 20 aces coming in the last two sets, and an early reluctance to leave the baseline was also overcome as he crowded his

opponent increasingly.

A change of gear may now
be necessary if Becker, who as
yet has shown little sign of fatigue, is to progress. His next opponent is another Swede, Magnus Larsson, who continued to enjoy his comeback after a lengthy absence with a broken ankle by heating By-ron Black 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4. Here last year Larsson

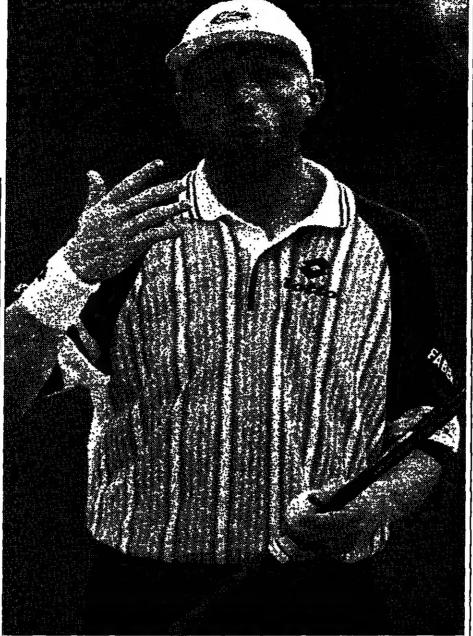
came within two points of defeating Pete Sampras in the fourth round, and he then climbed to 10th place in the world rankings before injury — sustained while playing in an exhibition event — forced him off the circuit for five months.

Comfortable victories for

Larsson and Thomas Enqvist, a 6-4, 6-4, 6-1 winner over Romania's Adrian Voinea, took to five the Swedish representation in the last 32. Australian hopes are now pinned mainly on the 19-year-

old Mark Philippoussis, a not altogether convincing 2-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 winner over Eyal Ran, a talented young Israeli who got into the draw only as

petuosity led him into the 20-year-old's brave challenge sort of trouble he had been warned to avoid, but in the end his superior fire-power saw him through to what will be an intriguing third-round match with the top seed Sampras, whom he stretched to four sets at the US Open.
Sampras dropped the first



Love game . . . Becker blows a kiss to Swedish fans who insulted him

with his 20th ace. Patrick Rafter was forced to default — when two sets in arrears — to Colombia's Alex Corretja 8-1, 6-2, 8-3.

Mauricio Hadad because of an damaged wrist. "I was in a only leading woman to bow out. Japan's Kimiko Date, lost 8-2, 6-1, 6-4

set and was made to work | Boetsch was unable to cope | Although Date saved two his rhythm by then and had begun to serve flat out.

At times Philippoussis's im
It was hard not to feel some

At times Philippoussis's im
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At times Philippoussis's im
It was hard not to feel some to whom he lost 6-4, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1, but the day's most impressive winner was the young Russian Yevgeny Ka-felnikov, who routed Spain's

third and she hit a backhand

The 15-year old Martina Hingis may be a beneficiary of yesterday's upsets. The Swiss girl despatched the Austrian Barbara Paulus 6-1. 6-4 to confirm a third-round ball," he said.

Seeded five, lost 6-2, 6-1, 6-4 match with Endo, and a
The 12th seed Arnaud to her compatriot Mana Endo. final place now beckons. match with Endo, and a semi-

og Good (good to firm is pisces). + Dec

Catterick

1.20 in Good Falth (ab)

2.20 Malaud

## **Alliance stands** up to scrutiny

Graham Rock on the Cheltenham chase which is considered too tough for novices

HE Sun Alliance | Sun Alliance took over the Chase, the champion-ship race for staying novices, has gained a sponsorship 10 years later. Two of the first three win-ners, Buona Notte and Differreputation for being a graveyard of talent. and '69.

The brilliant Killiney won

Too much too soon, say the critics, and The Grey Monk, and 69. arguably the leading young chaser of the season, is by no chaser of the season, is by no in 1973, his penultimate race means certain to even line up at the Cheltenham Festival in at Ascot. In 1974 Ten Up car-March.

Last Saturday Hill Of Tultory and the following year

low, Jibber The Kibber, Avro | became the first winner to tri-Anson and Treble Bob won and are potential candidates for the title, but only Hill Of Tullow is considered a defi-

nite contender.

All will be entered, but Gold Cup of 1980; Tied Cottage trainers have reservations easily beat Master Smudge about running potentially into second, but the race was top-class chasers over the 19 awarded to the runner-up on fences and three miles, one a technical disqualification. furlong of the Old Course at Cheltenham.

"Plenty of horses have a both races, but Minnehoma hard race and don't seem to (1992) later triumphed in the train on," said Avro Anson's Grand National. trainer, Maurice Camacho. The perception is widely held, but the Sun Alliance has proved the best guide to future champions. Many of those who won and did not the Gold Cup. Addanti finreach the top were either suc-cessful in moderate renewals. or kept their feet when the best horses in the race failed

to complete the course. A staying championship for novice chasers was established at Cheltenham in 1964. Brown Chamberlin in '82 and supported by the Tote, and Forgive 'N'Forget chased

V reached his tenth con-

secutive 100 winners when

All Clear won at Taunton, but David Bridgwater was

handed a four-day whip

ban (Jan 27-29) after scor-

ing on the gelding.
"It's nice to reach 100 at

S.20 Cross Co

1.20 ноитивые высотно снаниту spikes доченые никоме 470  ${\rm s}_{\rm m}$  expose

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ENCHANTED COTTAGE M Hammond 10-12

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CE2 M GOOD FAITH (13) J Cubin 10-12

CE3 M GOOD FAITH (13) J Cubin 10-12

TAKE A RIGHT N Chemberlain 10-12

DOT THERE WILD DAYS (13) T Tale 10-12

TOP FELLA P Dennis 10-12

TOP FELLA P Dennis 10-12
WHAT'S SECRETO H Alexander 10-12
CRAMBELLA A Smith 10-7
LATCH KEY LADY R Woodhguss 10-7 TOP FORM TIPS: In Good Faith 8, Starolist; The Robel 7, Royal Expres

2414-81 BRANCHER (24) (CD) J Norton 5-11-10 28-112 BEGGARS RANQUET (32) P Beaumont 6-11-0 BRIDLE PATH (8) M H Essierby 5-11-0

D RRIDLE PATH (8) SH H Existry 5-11-0 .

10 CASTLE RED (84) J Wate 6-11-0 .

21 CONDINAME (24) M Wate 6-11-0 .

22 CONDINAME (24) M Wate 6-11-0 .

23 CONDINAME (24) M HATIMOND 6-11-0 .

25 HARRYS CHOICE (225) J Charlon 6-11-0 .

26 HARRYS CHOICE (225) J Charlon 6-11-0 .

26 CONDINAME (24) P Demis 6-11-0 .

27 POLLY STAR (9) L Lungo 6-10-9 .

27 POLLY STAR (9) L Lungo 6-10-9 .

28 RECHARLES BANK (40) J TYR 8-10-9 .

28 ROLLAE STAR (9) L STAR (9) T TSP 6-10-9 .

OP POINT TIPS: Beggirs Resigned 9, Monyotan 7, Rac

2.20 STAYERS' HOVICE CHASE Son 1/ 110yels CB,753

3.50 Golden Huggel

All Clear takes Pipe to century

ARTIN PIPE yesterday my local track and I also

1.40 Firty Gertle

home A Kinsman in '84. Rhyme 'N' Reason unseated behind Antarctic Bay in 1985 and Royal Athlete fell in Garrison Savannah's year, while Barton Bank was pulled up behind Young Hustler in 1993 and One Man hurt his back when ninth to Monsieur Le ent Class, were both out of the top drawer, as were Herring

Cure two years ago.
Following One Man's defeat
Edward Gillespie, general
manager at Cheltenham. researched the Sun Alliance and his results suggested that the race's reputation was unwarranted.

He believes that since the requirements to run in the Cathcart Chase were amended in 1988, trainers have a realistic alternative. "The conditions now favour first-season novices and the race has become much more popular," he said. Of course, some winners of

the Sun Alliance fell from grace; Antarctic Bay (1985) never ran again. Cross Mas-Since then only Garrison Savannah has succeeded in ter (1986) won in a weak year and became an indifferent jumper, and The West Awake (1988) ran only once in each of

the three following seasons. Several horses who failed His trainer, Oliver Sher-wood, does not blame the Sun in the championship went on lems. 'He had a leg, but it was nothing to do with Chelten-ham. You've got to have the isbed seventh to Gay Spartan in 1977, Silver Buck was third to Master Smudge, Little Owl fell behind Lacson in 1880, right horse for the race. though; three miles plus on soft ground could gut them." Josh Gifford, who sent out

Envopak Token to win in 1989 and Brief Gale last year, is a Sun Alliance enthusiast, as is Martin Pipe, who won with Rolling Ball in 1991 and Miinnehoma the following season. It's a cracking race, like the Triumph, but they seem to want to knock them," said Pipe. "Horses mature at different ages, and a trainer should know if a horse is capable of running in the race

and standing it.
"When Milnnehoma won water was unhappy about "When Milnnehoma won the ban, saying: "At other he beat Bradbury Star, Run meetings recently certain For Free and Rough Quest jockeys haven been a lot They've all done pretty well more severe than I was."

#### Kempton card with guide to the form

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1,0	)O 577	A DAYLIGHT HOWICH HARDLE (DIV I) DIN E2,918
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2	111-F2P	ROBERT'S TOY (105) (D) M Pipe 5-11-4
3		ARCTIC THUMBER Lady Harrise 5-10-12
4	45	ART TATUM (50) Mrs M McCourt 5-10-12 O McCourt
6		BLUMBSEN BOY J GHord 6-10-12 PHoto
	P	CLOCK WATCHERS (268) J Stroper 8-10-12
7		DOODSES POOL P Burgoyne 6-10-12 Lawrence
		FOIL STONE Mrs J Cecil 5-19-12T Keek
9	90	HYLTERS CHARGE (14) P Hobbs 5-10-12 G Tomery (2)
10	424-4	LORD WELLINGTON (175) J Jenium 5-10-T2
11	P-6	HEW ALBION (50) N Henderson 6-10-12
15	5	RIVER MORTH (13) (BF) Lady Harnes 5-10-12 A Decisional
12		RUNIC SYMBOL M Blanshard 5-10-12 D Gallaghar
14	84	SCOTTISH BAMBI (10) P Webser 5-10-18 R Makeny
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7 8	SIG KING OF RABYLON (43) Lady Hornes 19-10	The state of the s
10	MATERIAL Market 10-16	AP McCoy
	05 ZABADI (18) D Michelson 70-10	A Magaire
11	MANEDY'S BET N Callaghan 10-5	S Kalahtier
12		
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Total-	ug: 13-8 Sovereigns Parade, 9-4 Ocean Hawk, 4-1 Domeppel, 10-1 N J. Klary Ol Babylon, Basilesbip Bruce, 25-1 Deymier	lagwegat, 14-1 i.asi Spm, 16- 1 <i>2 pa</i> mman
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- 2	BF-P112 CROSA'S DELIGHT (13) (BF) M Pipe 9-11-7	B Featon

E F200-0 JUST BRIDGE (S) Mrs E Heath 7-11-5 Relations
8 4840-5 FLOW (18) R Buckler 7-11-5 Relations
7 486-5P LO-FLYMBO MESSER (10) R Duction 8-10-5 Philadese (S)
8 4600-LD FLY MEMBERS (S) Buckler 8-10-0 Milertin Secult (S)
8 4600-LD FLY MEMBER (S) Buckler 8-10-0 Relations
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10 Indiana

1/1360-2 BARMA BOY (ES) N Henderton 6-12-0
6:19-1 THE WONT WAIT (42) (0) R PHINTS 7-11-3
FFIPS- GARBELBO ROYAL (273) (5) 9: Printent 3
52:311- PRECENIAN (649) (0) Mrs D Hairs 10-11-4
45-114 ROSEO STAR (43) (0) N Texis 10-11-9
57:013 BAR MOCIO (60) (BF) C Brooks 5-10-6
14/1-F WYLAH (13) J Gildel 9-10-1

3.00 noval mail Handicap Hundle 🖦 110min cades 212-527 GREAT EASEBY (41) (D) W Storey 5-11-10
122-411 TAKE THE BUCKSKIN (15) (D) Thomson Jones 9-11-10
5-51-00 BARAK RIVER (15) Mm 1 Refer 12-11-1
5-0022 LAUDED GENTRY (41) C Broad 7-11-7 TOP FORM TIPS: Callin Alber 10, Take The Bucketin 6, South Toe 7

PORMI GUIDE - CASAT SASSINY: Hard redown to lead hat, stayed on well, sion by 50 from LANDED

Smith, 56-5%; School, made rest, wor combrishly by 38 from Abstration (registed Chaille, 56-5m).

CALEN CALS: (reproved effort last time when headway 4 par, stoyed on to feed flast wise by 28 from Coldensmith (author 2015). 6(4).

ROYAL PIPER Led runns, chegist close from, nd 2nd to Toor Leader, with SPECIAL ACCOUNT (rec 1lb) entry change 2 out, one parcy, 43 at (Transfers 3nd). 6(5).

RABABIC REVIEW Never a remain view a disease last of 15 finishers to Lucky Stup (Enter 28m, soit). PISSTALL YORKSHIPE CALE (34) (00) J Giffort 10-11-10
612-13-2 CLEVER SHEPHERS (64) (00) P Hobbs 11-11-4
6-203 REPRAY THE DOSE (3) T Casey 11-11-0
62-203 REPRAY THE DOSE (3) T Casey 11-11-0
132-23 THE WISP (66) D GISSE!! 9-10-0

10P FORM TIPS: Report The Dogs & Clover Shaphers 7

4.00 EXTEA DAYLIGHT HOYICE HURDLE (DAY 2) 300 52,816 0/2- AMAZE (437) Listy Herries 7-10-12 02-U DECIDE YOURSELF (76) T Thomson Jones 6-10-12 820- TUKARO (808) Junkins 5-10-12 11-0 YENDOOR (38) M Hegion-Ellis 6-10-0/-P5 JUNGLE MICHRIAY (8) P Hem 7-10-

#### Sovereigns should triumph

RIUMPH Huruse should be forthcoming when Ocean Hawk, Domappel and Sovereigns Parade clash in the Walton Juvenile Hurdle at Kempton today, writes

On a stiffer track and over a longer trip, Ocean Hawk would be the choice. But con-ditions look right for Sover-Return at Haydock. Nicky Henderson's gelding to Turnpole.

RIUMPH Hurdle clues clocked a faster time than Do-should be forthcoming mappel, who was all out to beat Dally Boy on the same Haydock card.

stayed on strongly to beat the subsequent winner Goldens-wift at Ludlow, looks the pick of the weights in the Royal Mail Handicap Hurdle. At Catterick, Beggars Baneigns Parade (1.30), who had quet (1.50) stands out in the too much speed for Paddy's EBF Novice Hurdle after his promising Newcastle second

## P-321 MALAWI (4a) Wested 6-12-3 4-2412 MALAWI (4a) Wested 6-12-3 4-2412 MINISTAN CASTLE (26) J Wade 7-11-11 20-27 RIMSTAN CASTLE (26) J Wade 7-11-11 20-27 MEDION HAUDE (39) B Eason 8-11-5 20-27 MEDION HAUDE (39) B Eason 8-11-5 20-27 MEDION HAUDE (39) C Parter 8-11-5 37/LDB-ROSES ORPHAN (30) C Parter 8-11-5 20 FRONTING TROUT (84) Miss A Embiricos (20) FRONTING TROUT (84) Miss A Embiricos 3///70- GLEN BONVERN (28/3) W Kerap 10-10-12-45/875- TOLL BOOTH (28/7) Cherkon 7-10-11 4-5-223 GOLDMERK (28) (87) W Toning 6-16-10 445-640 SAFARS FARK (8) W Bestell 7-10-10 3.20 STOKESLEY HANDICAP CHASE 21 ST C4,230 122-122 POLITICAL TOWER (41) (C) R Ribane 9-12-0 123-12-3 ISSYTE (25) (CD) M W Essierby 9-11-0 17932-4 JUST PRAMINUE (34) (C) Mrs M Rowsley 12-11-4 22-122 PROCESSES GAMBOON (7) (EF) J Hollerts 10-11-1 43-12U CROSS GAMBOON (7) (EF) J Hollerts 10-11-1 134-538 RATHER SHARP (38) (C) C Populum 10-10-0

3.50 CONTON HARDICAP HURDLE Stm 11 (10 yill 12.832

1 2012-35 LIER DE FAMILLE (S5) (C) J Ouinn 6-11-70 M Daywr
2 315-04-0 DESERT BEST (31) Mas L Shally 7-11-9 D Beafley 4

3 12.0111 MASTER OF THE ROCK (22) (CD) J Macked 7-11-7 E Husband (3) ±

4 192-35P TROCKO (24) (CD) M S Austan 10-11-2 D Williamson
5 000-32 RINGLEGOLS (44) (EX) M S Austan 10-11-2 R Hurley
6 020-22 RINGLEGOLS (46) Mar P Sty 11-11-1 R Hurley
7 P86-1P1 GOLSSEN HURGES (24) EX P D-0-3 B Greaten (7)
7 P86-1P1 GOLSSEN HURGES (24) E Austan 9-10-0 L Wyer
8 P-095P STROKE MESONEY (34) P C Procestrough 8-10-0 R Sepple
70P PORM TUPE Libra De Famille 8, Harber Of The Rock 7, Singlesoile 6
Bettings 7-4 Master Of The Poot, 7-2 Singlesoile 8
Bettings 7-4 Master Of The Poot, 7-2 Singlesoile, 9-2 Golden Mugget, 5-1 Lier De Famille, 8-1 New Charges, 14-1 Troodos, 33-1 Desert Mar, Strong Mesoure
8 russners

### 2.10 Hawwan 2.40 First Maite

Southwell (A.W.)

Wayward Lad was ninth to

Lesley Ann in '81, Burrough Hill Lad came down behind

knocked up my first 50 win-ners here in 1985," said the

Somerset trainer. Bridg-

Code	y ≥boden	rd. 🖈 Descrips hillskorn. Degat Lour marghery foreigned.	
1.4	IO over	TER MEDIAN AUCTION MAIORN STAKES 7/ 12,676	
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3	000,-80	MAN OF MAY (9) N Littroden 4-9-0	C Melanysia.
-	100-	- MAYBANK (291) B McMahon 4-9-0 G	Carter II
	(10444.8	MORTHERN CREY (9) J Berry 4-1-0	Boharts (7) B
	/25000	OUR ROSERT (102) J FizzGerald 4-8-0 ,	Witness of
	-55,4		wagement of
7	<u>_</u>	- PÚSHKA FAIR (31) T Watson 5-9-0	مسوداتها فحر
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8	23-30	- <b>SQUARE DEAL (243)</b> & Bowning 5-3-9	Françus (5) 5
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1	30200-2 HAWWAR (14) (CD) (BF) E Alston 10-8-13 50000-6 CHADLEIGH LARE (7) (C) R Hollinsheed 4	S. 16
3	0040-30 NO SUBMISSION (9) (CD) (BF) B Chapma	n 10-8-10
- 7	44330-3 MISS ZANZINAR (9) (D) R Fahey 4-8-5	Wanter of
3	000-0 ARECIBO (14) J Parkes +8-4	
- 2	06/0460- MANUA MAY (114) J King 6-14	TO Comment in
•	one-in- improved max (3 tak 7 title 6-1-4	34
-	2540-0 GUISHER VILLA (14) (CO) P Hasiam 4-7-1	
<u>.</u> .		6
	PORM TIPS: Mes Zouzbar 6, Havronne 7	
	ngs 3-1 Meia Zanzibar. 9-4 Harmann, 9-2 No Submission. I	
ien P	a Bay, 39-1 Aracibo	7 mag
	40 SHARK HANDICAP JYO ST C2,122	
4		
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10 11		SEERING DESTRIY (14) M Crapman 7-18	P Feating (6) 5
TOP F	3-1 First	k Klad Of Light 6, First Walts 7, Westman's Weigh 6   Marso, 7-2 Westman's Weigh, 5-1 Castle Governor, 5-1 Kind Of Light, 10-1 Stilly Night, 14-1 Madam Zando	
3.1	О осто	PUS HANDICAP 1m 4f C2,118	
1 2 3 4 5 5 7 8	221005- 60561-6 2231026- 23022-0 62001-6 60033-1	CROSS TALK (87) R Hofmshead 4-9-8 PREMITER DARKE (13) (27) D Hydra Jones 9-9-8 HULLEANK (120) W Holgh 6-9-2 HAMFILL (11) J Hetherich 4-9-0 AMESTOP (17) (C) R Abehum 4-9-1 BIOORST HOPE (7) (39-ac) (CD) B Richmond 9-8-9	A Maskey 7 Dele Gibson & R Gechrane 6 T Ashley (7) 2
		: Medast Hope B, Hullbank 7, Anistop 6	
		est Hope, 7–2 Anssop, 5–1 Huffbank, 6–1 Cross Talk, 7–1 Premier Dance Innel Loret	8-1 Marchil, 12-1

Museum, 25-1 Record Lover 8 research, 5-1 Indipolate, 5-1 Cross 16th, 7-1 Promot Listing 8-1 Walted. C-1 Museum, 25-1 Record Lover 8 research			
3.4	O LOBSTER SELLING STAKES 1m at £2,607		
123455789	100   100		
TOP /	Ogsi TPS: Sharp Gazalie B, Westerst 7, Second 6		
Bettle	gg 2-1 Serasu, 7-2 Waraurst, 11-2 Eastleign, Hard Love, 5-1 Sharp Gazelle, 10-1 Ballyrag, 14-1 Stratumers		

Bettle Some	gs 2-1 Seness, 7-2 Warburst. 11-2 Eassleigh, Hard Love, 6-1 Sharp Gazesse hing Spakey, 16-1 Mivad Mood, 25-1 Pumpion Pie	, 10–1 Ballyrag, 14– 8 tuataur
4.1	O LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER CHALLENGE SERIES HANDICAP 71 CS	150
1	2311- CASHGERE LADY (48) (D) J Eyre 4-10-0	R Leppin 4
2	6406-1 SO ABAZING (11) (6th ear) (CII) Mess S Hall 4-9-7	
I =	7/0223- ZAIN DANCER (187) (D) D Methols 4-6-5	Alas Greaves 1
4	0504-43 FIRST 90LD (7) (6lb ex) (CD) J Warrion 7-9-5	5 D Williams 7-4
5	55300-4 PONT GET CAUGHT (15) J L Harris 4-9-4	J F Agen 3+
6	0530-54 AQUADO (4) (CD) 5 Bowring 7-8-9	C Tengero (5) 84
7	00002-0 QUINZII MARTIN (13) (CD) D Haydn Jones 8-8-8	_TWENTS 54
В	0020-45 IMDIAHRA (4) R Hotisms beard 5-9-7	F Lyech (7) 2+
9	00:005-4 SEA GOD (4) M Chapman 5-8-2	C Menday (7) P
TOP P	ORM TIPS: Se Amering 8, Continues Lady 7, See God 6	
Bettle	gs 9-4 So Amezing, 7-2 Centerers Lasty, 5-1 First Gold, 7-1 Don't Get Caught.	Included, 6-1 Outre
Mertin	12-1 Aquado, 5ea God, 14-1 Zam Dancer.	0 russar.

 Blinkered for the first time — CATTERICK: 1.20 Bold Top, Leedons Park, Major Snugfit. SOUTHWELL: 2.10 Manila Bay, Summer Villa, 4.10 Don't Get Caught.

LINGFIELD

1.00 (\*Im 2f) 1, 70000, A Clark (\*I1-4): 2, lade Venture (8-1); 3, Carrier (8-2); 2, Errant (Evens lay); 3, Carrier (8-1); 6 ran. Sh bd, 2, (0) french Davis) Tols: 05:30; 21:10, 27:10, 27:30, 100; (7:10); 27:30, 100; 27:30,

Trac: £77.00. CSF: £51.29. Tricast: £178.40.

GUADPOT: C47.20. PLACEPOT: £142.70.

LUDLOW

12.40 (2tm Helle): 1, MASTER TRIESE, W
Marston: \$1-100-lab): 2, Bream Rice (3-1
00-lab): 3, The Bounder (15-2): 3-1 po-lav
Blaze of Data: 18 ran. 12, 11. (Mars. J. Pisman)
Tota: £4.00; £2.40. £1.80; £2.00. Dual F: £5.00.
Tric: £177.00. CSF: £11.68. †1/cast:
\$1.30 (2tm Helle): 1, DAM-RING, J Osborne
(8-13 lav): 2, Tragle Herre (6-1); 3, Torian
(90-1): 17 ran. \$1.41 (5 Sheywood) Tota:
\$1.50 (2tm Helle): 1, DAM-RING, J Osborne
(80-1): 17 ran. \$1.41 (5 Sheywood) Tota:
\$1.50 (2tm Helle): 1, PRIDEWOOD
PICKER, A Magnus (5-1 lav): 2, Magicai
Std (10-11 3, Reel Poposom 15-1): 4,
Masser Murphy (6-1): 19 ran. 18, \$1.60

Price | Tota: £2.00, E2.50, E2.50, E2.20.

Doal F: £48.70. Tric: £817.70. CSF: £11.68. †1/cast:
Tota: £2.00, Tric: £11.62. £2.00, Dual F: £3.00.
Tric: £11.70. CSF: £12.80.

\$2.40 (2tm Chip 1, Masshall, Princes,
\$2.41 (2tm Chip 1, Masshall, Princes,
\$2.40 (2tm Chip 1, Massha

| 2.40 (2m 4/ Ch): 1, SHENDED LIGHT, A Maguire (7-2) inl-lay); 2, Plembertey Place (7-2) inl-lay); 2, Plembertey Place (7-2) inl-lay); 3, Verywel (8-2), 16 ran. 11, 4, 6) Nicholson) Tote: F4.30: F190, E2.00, E2.30. Dust F: F10.90. Trio. E88.90. CSF: E10.90. Trio. E88.90. CSF: E10.90. Trio. E88.90. CSF: E10.90. Trio. E88.90. E39. (4-7 iav); 15 ran. 8, 7. (Miss H Knight) Tote: E4.90; E1.90, E1.90. E1

1.20 (2m 87 110 yde Hidle): 1, HEGHT-OWN CAVALIER, J Harris (9-2); 2, He's A King (14-1); 3, Tickorty's Gift (3-1 lav). 12 ran. Sh hd, 12. (R Hodges) Toler, 25 9C, 12.00. 13.00, 61.80 Dual F (29 60. Trio: 247.30.

PRASS, D Bridgerare (7-4); 2, Tone Pinch (50-1); 3, Hanging Grove (50-1); 13-8 tax Mister Morose, 12 ran, 25, 4, (14 Pipe) Tote: 53.00; 51:10, 1250, 1250, Duni F. 259.50, Trio. 158.80, CSF L54.86, NR: Another Hubblet Soldier-B.

3.30 (2m 3f Cb): 1, GARRYLOUGH, M Dwysr (11-2); 2. Geolene (7-2 lav); 3, Southernotten (7-1). 14 ran. 1, 9, 0 Gandollo) Tote (5.80; E2.10, E2.40, E2.10, Dualif: 17.20 Tric: E28.60, E2.10, E2.40, E2.10, Dualif: 17.20 Tric: E28.60, ESF: 124.73. Fricast: 13.50 (2m 1f Hdbs); 1, ALL GLEAR, D Bridgeater (7-1); 2, Lake Karline (Evera lav); 3, Allow (18-1). 12 ran. 25, 6, IM Pipel Tole: £7.16; E2.30, £1.80, E3.40, Dualif: £8.80, Tric: £8.00; CSF: £14.45. Triegst: £111.31. NP: King's Gold.
4.20 (2m 1f Hdbs): 1, DRESS DANCE, Sophie Milechell (20-1); 2, Goldsingo (14-1); 3, Society Guest (12-1), 4-1 Fav Sports View, 13 ran. 7, 1%; IN Michell (10-1); 25, Goldsingo (14-1); 3, Society Guest (12-1), 4-1 Fav Sports View, 13 ran. 7, 1%; IN Michell (10-1); 25.50, Tro. E32.20. CSF: 249.53. Tricest: 25, 165.15. NP: Mustahil-Guapport: £2.70. PLACE-POT: £411.00, JACKPOT: Not won. E9,174.03 carried over to Kemplon



## Platt hit by new injury

Don Beet

S IF being knocked out of the FA Cup at Sheffield United was mot enough, Arsenal's manager Bruce Rioch suffered another severe setback yesterday when David Platt went into hospital for a knee operation. The England mid-fielder missed nine games earlier in the season when he

had a torn cartilage repaired. Rioch, depressed after Wednesday's replay, hopes that Platt's latest lay-off will not last long but confirmed that he wants new signings. "I have put two or three names in front of the board," he said. "Last night's performance was not good enough and showed we need to

Platt said: "I have not been told how long it will be before I can play again but I don't imagine it will be more than a few weeks. In one way I feel I am letting Arsenal down by not playing but I also feel I would be letting my team-mates down by continuing to play when my movement is

Platt will be missed in

ship match against Everton, as will the central defenders Tony Adams and Martin Keown, who start two-match suspensions. The right-back Lee Dixon, injured on Wednesday night, is also doubtful and the young defender Gavin McGowan, who has been covering for the sus-pended left-back Nigel Winterburn, starts a two-match han himself on Monday.

Paul Ince, who claimed yes-terday that he was back to his best with Internazionale, and Bolton's Alan Stubbs will be high on Rioch's wanted list. Ilie Dumitrescu ended his

unhappy stay with Totten-ham yesterday when he com-pleted a £1.5 million move across London to West Ham. Tottenham's manager Gerry Francis may use the fee to step up his hid for the Shef-field Wednesday winger Andy Sinton, whom he sold while manager of Queens Park Rangers two seasons ago.
The Manchester City goal-keeper Tony Coton is making

a cross-town move to Old Trafford as cover for Man-chester United's Peter Schmeichel. A deal with Sun derland collapsed last week

### tomorrow's home Premier- Road if he passes a medical. Keegan faces more spending

David Lacey

HE moment that Peter Beardsley's opening pen-alty hit the bar in their FA Cup shoot-out with Chelsea, Newcastle United's season was assured of its destiny. By losing to Arsenal in the quarter-finals of the Coca-Cola Cup and now to Chelsea in a third-round FA Cup replay, all in the space of eight days. Kevin Keegan's team have displayed an in-

stinctive sense of priorities. In between these disappointments they scrambled a 1-0 victory at Coventry City to take a nine-point lead at the top of the Premiership.

With a match in hand over their principal rivals, Man-chester United and Tottenham, both of whom are still in the FA Cup, Newcastle can now devote their attention

Fixture congestion will not be a problem. They have to play 16 games in 15 weeks, a situation similar to that which eased Manchester United's run in to the title in 1993 after they too had been knocked out of both cups.

Injuries and suspensions are Keegan's problem now. As his first-teamers totter from treatment room to disciplinary board, another visit to the transfer market cannot

Newcastle were without Lee, Howey and Gillesple on Wednesday, and lost Ferdi-nand with badly bruised ribs. Ginola begins a three-match suspension after tomorrow's home game with Bolton and

Yet as a depleted and exhausted Newcastle side strug-gled to deny Chelsea in extra time it was Ferdinand's 19year-old replacement, the ebullient Darren Huckerby. who kept St James' Park's

hopes alive. In November Keegan paid

this Nottingham-born midfielder, who offers further proof of the need to keep the lower divisions alive. Twice Huckerby cut in from the left to dribble past Chelsea defenders before driving the ball just wide of the far post.

Newcastle had suffered a red card in a second success.

red card in a second succe sive cup-tie, yet Wednesday's replay was as composed and Coca-Cola tie with Arsena and been an undignified scuffile, both on and off the field. At least this time the Newcastle bench went down without

a fight. Had Gullit not pounced on Spencer's uncleared centre two minutes from the end of normal time on Wednesday Cheisea would have lost 2-1 and gone home ruing their failure to exploit the advantage of Peacock's dismissal.

Bridge, when only an underhit goal-kick by Kharine, pun-ished by Albert and Ferdi-nand, had given Newcastle a second chance.

Glenn Hoddle has turned a sow's ear of a team into a silk purse. Even with Hughes about to start a five-match ban, Chelsea are looking a better bet for the Cup than they did two years ago, when Manchester United beat them

at Wembley. With Tottenham cruising past Hereford and expecting to see off Wolves for a place in the last 16, the chances of the FA Cup returning to London remain high — even though Sheffield United eliminated Arsenal with a goal from an Australian with a Geordie-sounding birthplace, Whyalia.

FA CUP: Nevised fourth-round drawn Saturday January 27: Shrifesbury v Liverpool: Charlton v Brentlord: hownch v Walsall; Solton v Leeds; Huddersfield v Falerborough; Coventry v Man City; Middlesbrough v Wimbledon, Fleading v Man Unt; Notim Poresi v Chord Unt; Southampton v Crewe; Swindon v Barnsley of Oldham; Eventon v Port Vale; West Ham v Grimsby; Totlenham v Wolverhampton. Sameley January 25: Sheffleld Utd v Aston Villa. Monday January 25: CPR v Chelses.

## **Base Rate**

Bank of Scotland announces that with effect from Thursday 18 January 1996 its Base Rate has been reduced from 6.50% per annum to 6.25% per annum.



Head Office: The Mound, Edinburgh EHI 1YZ



Field of broken dreams . . . the Goldstone Ground, full of memories but now in a sorry state and sold off for redevelopment

## Seagulls with nowhere to land

David Lacey on the mounting troubles that threaten to end in Brighton's demise

grows increasingly desperate. Being knocked out of the FA Cup in a shoot-out, by a penalty from the Fulham goalkeeper, is the least of the troubles conspiring to end the 95-year existence of Brighton and Hove Albion.

The club's Goldstone Ground has been sold for redevelopment but Albion still have nowhere to go. After negotiations with Hove council the new owner, Chartwell plc, a property developer which sees supermarket ohnny McNichol and Bobby Smith once trod, has given the club an extra year, until June 1997, to find a new home. But this has not mollifled critics of the way the club has been run or, as some might say, run down.

Brighton's affairs are alwholly to the task of bringing the championship to St more impressive than in the James Park for the first time original match at Stamford met club representatives and

OWN Sussex way to the FA investigation is the the Seagulls' wail removal from the club's articles of association of a ground was sold for a way out for the club would be to have the money received from the sale of the ground put into a trust fund adminis ered by the FA.

In a joint letter to the FA the leaders of the two local authorities, Brighton council's Steve Bassam and Hove's Ivor Caplin, have been scath-ing in their criticism of Bill Archer, the Brighton chairman, Greg Stanley, a director, and David Bellotti, the club's vice-chairman and chief

"It is our view," say the councillors, "based on many months of dealing with the current management, that only a complete change of personnel at the top in the club's commercial and financial management can bring the club back to a state of health."

and Stanley inherited the | for a 2600,000 loan "has now Fads decorating business, subsequently sold to Boots. The pair went into partnership to form Focus DIY.

In their letter to the FA,

Bassam and Caplin point out

that Chris Lapsa, of Aubrey Lapsa, who has acted for Chartwell over the past three years, "also acts for Mr Archer in securing deals on property for Focus DIY". The councillors feel there is a po-Bellotti arrived on the Goldtone scene shortly after failing to get himself re-elected as the Lib-Dem MP for East-

bourne. Those close to Albion at the time say he claimed he could assist the club in getting planning permission from Hove council to rebuild the Goldstone Ground; but the plans were rejected.

Brighton's failing finances have led to the club facing a succession of winding-up orders. The council leaders have furnished the FA with a

amounted to £295,000, nearly 50 per cent of the original sum", and that £250,000 was charged in the year for this facility.

"This is ironic," say the

councillors, "given that origi-nally the Stanley Trust gave a £600,000 loan free for the first five years from 1987-92. "What we find interesting

in this context is the relationship between the Stanley Trust loan and the removal from the club's articles of association of the 'not for profit' clause in 1993. "David Bellotti claims two

things in relationship with the clause. He has said its removal was an oversight when the articles were changed. He has also said it was necessary to keep the banks happy. We have no evidence that would support either contention. Indeed,

they are mutually contradictory." Bassam and Caplin allege that Archer and Stanley "do auditors last Friday. Crucial | Crown Paints in Blackburn, | payable to the Stanley Trust | view, Albion's owners "do not | its pilot.

want to prolong the agony and simply want a share of the sale price and the club put out of its misery".

"To us," the councillors continue, "the behaviour of councillors

the owning directors appears to be designed to drive foot-ball traditions out in favour of asset-stripping. Despite their protestations to the contrary they have made no firm plans to develop a new site for the club but have disposed of its current home." The councillors want a public inquiry

or a joint investigation by the FA and the local authorities. Meanwhile, as Albion head for limbo in the Third Division, only one of the moves mooted so far — to Toad's Hole Valley on the outskirts of Hove - looks remotely

new stadium lie on either side of the River Adur near Shoreham Airport, which is a sad irony. For the starting point of Albion's decline was the

OTTENHAM Hotspur's profits more than trebled from £2.1 million to a record £7.1 million in the first six months of the financial year, up to November 30 1995. The chairnan Alan Sugar said the figures reflected soaring revenue from sponsorship and gate receipts as well as a £4.8 million profit on the ale of players

Sugar, who heads the company that owns the club, said the results were "very pleasing, and continue to reflect the true potential of the company". He was confident that the full-year results would full-year result would be "pleasing to all shareholders".

City reaction to the news saw the group's shares — just over half held by Sugar but most of the others owned by Tottenham supporters — climb 11p to close at 251p, a high for the year. Sugar said the profit matched the club's success on the field. Spurs are third in the Premiership and have qualified for the fourth round of the FA Cup, and Sugar paid tribute to "the leadership of Gerry Francis together with the players for this excellent performance to date".

Leaving aside profits from the transfer market, profits had jumped from £590,000 to £2.33 million. This was mainly because of improved Hewlett Packard and Pony sponsorship deals, television fees, higher league gate-receipts and profits from merchandising.

Player and match expenses were up from £6.7 million to £9.8 million. but Sugar said the wage bill was expected to rise as contracts were renegotiated and new players recruited. He reported that the club had acquired a new training centre at Chigwell, to open by the end of March.

He concluded that the company's performance in the second half of the year would depend to some extent on the club's run in the FA Cup, and on the result of Tottenham's appeal against a Uefa ban of a year from European competionly a complete change of personnel at the top in the club's counts, which show a trading commercial and financial nanagement can bring the nanagement can bring the club back to a state of health."

Archer used to work for Archer used to Riackburn

The appears of personnel at the top in the club's loss for the year of £725,303, an increase on the previous and increase on the previous and

#### Cricket

## Illy back on the attack Saints lose their halo

AVING seen off Devon
Malcolm, Ray Illingworth yesterday turned

AVING seen off Devon
their youth policy.
Illingworth is particularly his fire on more traditional foes: the men in charge of

county cricket. England's outspoken chair-man of selectors has long advocated structural change in the domestic game, favouring a two-divisional champion-ship, and he believes that counties do not do enough to

"The bottom line is that we are at a pretty low ebb for talent in England." he said. "The counties are just not producing young players of the calibre of, say, Shaun Pollock. I believe the counties have to look at themselves. People say the game has im-proved but I don't think it

has.
"The counties have to bring on some decent players, then I can select them." His trenchant views found little support among the county hierarchy, with War-wickshire's chief executive Dennis Amiss saying he was "disappointed" by the remarks and Lancashire also

FAI CUPs First round: Wayside Celtic 2. Cherry Orchard 1. AFRICAN NATIONS CUP: Group At

Results

Golf

Tennis

concerned about the dearth of promising young bowlers, and since arriving in South Africa

he has admired the develop ment of Pollock and Paul Adams. England, by contrast, have only the emergence of Dominic Cork to show for 1995. "I have been pushing for a two-division championship for 20 years. That's a long time, and I'm getting tired of it now. There are too many

arguments around against if from non-cricketing sources. "I read recently that North amptonshire members said they would rather see their own team win than England win. I think counties have got to put their own houses in order and start producing cricketers for England.

"I am not in favour of a national academy for young players. That would just not work because you would never get counties agreeing on when to release players. What we should have is 18 academies, one at each first-class county."

MBA: Allanta 102 Indiana 93: Charlotte 93, New Jersey 97: Shatta 96, Machington 89 Philiadelphia 100, Militable 111, Minny-

Basketball

Illingworth also bemoaned his side's general lack of professionalism.

Amiss was quick to dis-tance himself from the criticism. "It's disappointing to hear comments like that because we don't feel we could be doing more to produce good cricketers for Warwick-shire and England," he said. "At Edgbaston we have an annual budget of between £100,000 and £150,000 for youth development. Last win-ter we went into 100 primary

going into another 100.
"Obviously our aim is to find players and be successful as a county, but there is a knock-on effect in that the best players could become successful for England."

schools and this year we are

 Shane Warne took two wickets in a miserly to overs to help Australia beat Sri Lanka by IR runs in the opening match of the World Series final in Melbourne Chasing Australia's 201 for seven, Sri Lanka got off to a promising start but lost their way in the middle order when six wickets went down for 25 runs.

JAPAN OPEN (Takyo: Selected: Second round: Hen: P Reservation (Com) bt D Half (GB) 15-7, 15-2, PAE Hoyer Larges (Den) pt P Knowlee (GB)

WORLD SERIES (Methourne) Finals Auc. Falls 201-7 (50 overs: M Bovon 59, R Pont-ing 51, I Healy Stroj Sri Lanks 183 (48 )

NHLs Buffalo (). Pittsburgh 1: Detroit 3. Colorado 2: NY Islanders 3. Hardord 6, Ottawa 8. Montreel 3, Tampa Bay 6. San Jose 4: Teronic 2. Winnipeg 4. Chicago 2. Washington 3. Dallas 3. Edmonton 4: Ana-horm 1. Calgary 4.

GUANGZHOU MASTERS (Ching): Fly T Drago (Malia) bt S Davis (Eng) 6-2.

Badminton

ice Hockey

Snooker

Soccer

**Fixtures** 

LEAQUE OF WALES: Holywell nah s Quay (7 50).

Warness A 11-8, 11-1,

#### Rugby League

Paul Fitzpatrick

NE of the reasons Paul Newlove, the game's costliest player, joined St Helens last November was because they were a "friendly" club.

After the departure of their cosch Eric Hughes 24 hours before Wednesday's game with London Broncos — and only four days after his side had played with great credit in the Regal Trophy final against Wigan — that depic-tion became redundant.

There was, in fact, nothing friendly about the way Saints told Bernard Dwyer, Sonny Nickle and Paul Loughlin that they were to be make-weights in the £500,000 New-love deal. Loughlin, one of the most loyal of Saints' players, has still not come to terms with the way be was bundled out of Engagery.

out of Knowsley Road. And there was certainly nothing friendly about the de parture of Hughes, whose fate appears to have been settled weeks ago. Ruthless, more like: evidence perhaps that

A INTERNATIONAL France v England (6.0. Jean Bouin Std. Paris): Ireland v Scattand (2.30. Donnybrook).

U-21 INTERNATIONAL: Ireland v Sout-land (12.0, Blackrock College).

land (12.0, Blackrock Colloge).

CLUB BATCHREM Advance v Cambridge
Univ. Bath v Moselry (7.16); Bristol v
Excitor, Chimn v Strout: Lalicator v Bedterd (7.15); Mot Polico v Eshor (7.45);
Northumpton v Wayse; Rosslyn Park, v
London Irlait: Warcostar v Wolverhumpton;
Biggar v Ayr (7.3); Edinburgh Whden v
GHK (7.0); Currie v Gate (7.0); Groonock
Wanderers v Glosgow Acads (7.0); Clasgow Southern v Dundes HSFP (7.0); Kelso
v Borcoughmuir (7.0); Langholm v Jed-Forost (7.0); Proston Longe v Stawarta Met Ey
(7.0); Stirling County v Grangemouth (7.0);
Worst of Scotland v Kirksaldy (7.0).

STONES CENTENARY CHAMPION SHIP: Shellold v Wigen

gubwetsen LEAGUE: Newcostia Chaster (8.0).

SIXTH OME-DAY INTERNATIONAL (East Landon) South Africa v England (12.30).

Rugby League

Basketball

Cricket

Hockey

**Rugby Union** 

Hughes's contract ran to the end of May but St Helens had obviously decided he was not the man to lead them into the Super League, which starts in March. The man who is appears to be Shaun McRae, an assistant coach and fitness conditioner with Canberra Raiders.

His appointment is expected to be confirmed on Sunday before the game at Halifax and his first job will be to gain the confidence of players deeply shocked at

Hughes's departure.

McRae's job will be to put right what St Helens considered to be the prime flaw under Hughes: a porous defence. Saints, a brilliant attacking side, on average have leaked 25 points a game al-though there has been evitacking side, on average have leaked 25 points a game, although there has been evidence of improvement was and fined £150.

Saints are determined to abandon those "friendly" and field last Saturday.
"comfortable" images.

Since moving up from Since moving up from Academy coach to head coach

in January 1994, Hughes has built a better St Helens, His greatest misfortune is that Wigan have continued to win all the trophies. That could be McRae's hur-

den, too. He will, though, in-herit a talented and young squad; Hughes reduced the average age of the first team from 28 to 23.

from 28 to 23.

Hughes may sue St Helens for wrongful dismissal. "We were eighth when I arrived, fourth last season and we are now third, less than a week after reaching a major final. A coach should be judged on results but that has not happened here." he said. pened here." he said.
• Scott Gibbs. St Helens'

& Clyde

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## NatWest

National Westminster Bank announces that with effect from 18 January 1996 its Base Rate is reduced from 6.5% to 6.25% per annum.

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National Westmirster Bank Hig

## Pit-bull muzzled but not silent

Paul Weaver finds Brian Moore in a mellow mood as England's former hooker contemplates a life without Frenchmen to bait

eyes, dark suit and his lawyer's hands clasped together, appeared to be travelling incognito at a London hunch yesterday. "That 'im?" asked a waiter with incredulity. "He normally looks very cross."

Very cross indeed. A bun-

dle of malevolence. The mas-cot that roared. England's wonky-toothed "Pit-bull" and the most capped hooker in their history.

The French have been gig-

RIAN MOORE, retired Moore would not be with gently smiling lining up against them at the eyes, dark suit and Parc des Princes tomorrow in the opening match of the Five Nations. France have not beaten England in this com-petition since 1988 and England have won in Paris on the past four occasions.

Moore had a lot to do with that, not only with the feroc-ity of his own physical com-mitment but also through the psychological warfare he cleverly used to unsettle the opposition, such as the time he eyeballed Les bleus and

part of the game, and it all came naturally to me." he said at yesterday's Sports-writers' Association lunch. writers' Association lunch.
England's captain Will Carling is missing Moore already. "Brian used to do very well at winding the French up," he said yesterday.
"Maybe someone will whisper his name to them during the grown wall have a few corted coach here you are corted coach here you are some wall have a few corted coach here you are corted coach here you are some wall have a few corted coach here you are some corted coach here you are some wall have a few corted coach here you are some corted coach here you are going to be locked in combat with. the game . . . we'll have a few

line-out calls called Brian Moore. But their discipline

has got a lot better and it's not

really something we look to expose any more."

The missing will be mutual

in Paris. Moore will be commentating for Radio Five
Mentating for Radio Five
Live, and said: "I will be feeling very odd before the kickoff, wondering where I would is technically good and very
be changing and experience the state of t that bonding feeling that comes with looking at Jason Leonard and Jeff Probyn and

part of the normal traffic but there you race down the free-way with everyone screaming and shouting and it feels, well .. exhilarating."

knowing that these are play-

Moore predicts a hard game for England. "They can win, I ling should think carefully in yourself".

strong.
"This match could decide the championship — with Ire-land the dark horses — and I

would always have gone into it with Dean Richards." Moore has some advice for the seven players who have no experience of the Parc des Princes. "If a Frenchman ever punched or kicked me I shrugged it off. I never let them know they had hurt me; that gave them satisfaction. We stand back, they lose their heads and our kicker collects the points."

Moore also feels that Car-

"If there is to be a new cap-tain he should have two years before the World Cup. Only four or five players can do the job and two or three of them. like Martin Johnson, don't

want it. Ben Clarke is a possibility."

Mostly, though, he wanted to talk about the Parc des Princes, and he grinned again at the prospect of the match, showing again those teeth de-scribed by a former England front-row colleague, Paul Ren-dall, as "gnashers you get from a DIY shop and hammer

#### Extra time Edited by Jeremy Alexander

### Atlanta's tick may prove a cross

ARD on the heels of North Korea's entry this month for the Games in Atlanta — and the IOC's rejoicing at its first 100 per cent attendance of eligible nations (197) since the second world war — a in full sallon". Even then the second world war — a in full gallop". Even then blot has emerged on that acaricide treatments would blot has emerged on that perfect landscape. A num-ber of European three-day event horses are being ex-cluded by the Georgia De-

sage and showjumping horses, subject to strict con-ditions and, adding cheek to inconsistency, on the understanding that those federations with seropositive horses meet the costs of implementation. Huge profits or forfelt the equestrian are expected from the events. In 1956 they were in

Germany, Italy and Spain may be affected — some 20

are numerous. The state is USDA, is intransigent. The sticking by its import health requirements for livestock, or nearly so.

FEI says: "The best riders should compete; the best horses should compete" — Under pressure it has the Olympic precept of no granted a waiver for dres- one barred.

stance threatening it. If it continues to take no action, Games; and, if ticks can be excluded from one area, it were in Melbourne.

#### Sixth column

AD the Man of the Match

ITV, self-importantly, names a man of its soccer matches

CRICKET's press accredi-tations for the World Cup were announced this week. Australia has 14 whereas England has 40, the same as Sri Lanka and only one fewer than Pakistan, another of the host nations. India has 323, of whom 101 are photographers.

SAM YOUNG, a grocery Clerk in Dallas, was fired for wearing a Green Bay Packers shirt to work last Saturday. Exceptionally, before the NFC play-off, staff were told by memo they could wear "team colours" instead of reg-ular uniform. Young, a Redskins fan, reckoned he could "wear the colours of his choice". Minyard Food Stores thought otherwise. He went against the grain of a corpo-

Ma's ARMY is on the march for Atlanta via Songmao in south-western Yunnan province. The Chinese coach Ma Jurren has taken 40 athletes to altitude training (7,150ft). "Watch us tidy up the foreigners at the Olympics." Ma said before imposing a news black-out. The reconstituted squad is called the Liaoning Women's Long Distance Running Team. It includes "a teenage

AST week's case of the Gulliver girls in Lilliput briefs who were disqualified from their third place in the pionships for taking a short cut — in costume not course was heard on Saturday The state's High School Activ ities Association declined to reinstate the Miami preparatory school on the ground that, if it did, "the authority

mined, even though the ruling was acknowledged to be am-biguous and will be altered". Though 60 per cent of Californian schools wear the shorts disallowed in Florida, Marian Krutulis, director of Gulliver, says the school canget it in the wash. Austria, Finland, France,

partment of Agriculture.

The point at issue is equine piroplasmosis, a blood-borne parasitic disease. It was once widespread in Georgia, now almost eliminated. Ticks are the vector. Where Los Angeles (1984) was dry, Georgia is humid and the ticks are numerous. The state is

The IOC is aware of the US

the end of rugby league's Regal Trophy final the award would almost certainly have gone to Henry Paul. Thus did | nitaries enter office to fill

inanity. He recalls the 1978 Challenge Cup final in which Leeds beat St Helens 14-12. Votes for the Lance Todd Trophy were cast 15 minutes from time, before Holmes or Cardiff. was already spending chestrated Leeds's thrilling fight-back. He was unquestionably the man of the match but Nicholls received one of player-coach. Last month he the game's most coveted pledged himself to stay. This last Saturday, Nicholls was man of the first 65 minutes.

before the end. It is announced over the Tannoy during play. Who, in this contradictory business of team games, will be first Man of the First Innings and, eventually no doubt, of the First Over?

rate advertising campaign backing the Cowboys and Emmitt Smith, said the boss. "I have no other choice but to terminate you."

sensation Jiang Bo and men".

of the officials who made the decision would be under-

not take the matter further.

But parents of the teenagers can, and are considering going to court. Presumably they will be well briefed.

POMANIA's most famous tennis player, now 49, is to run for Mayor of Bucharest under the slogan 'Tile Nastase an honest person". Residents complain that city digtha Guardian's report on Monday put its finger on a further
daftness in such awards.

Paul Fitzpatrick accepts
both the obsession and the
both the obsession and the nia's ruling party. This is

Social Democracy less time on the tiles. Now be is leaving Cardiff altogether to become West Hartlepool's week he took up West's renewed offer, increased reportedly from £40,000 to £65,000. No one, including team-mates on the field, has ever known

what he will do next. He and Paul Turner, Sale's player-coach, set each other dares. One was a back-heeled conversion. He tried it against London Welsh and hit the post and trouble. The Welsh, losing by 60-odd points, complained it was "insulting" and Cardiff carpeted him. Another dare was catching a high ball behind the back. West's visit to Sale on April 13 promises fun.

THE Bath Evening Chroni-cle attributed remarkable perception in its report on the second one-day international in South Africa: "I would have given the Man of the Match award to Hicky," said Atherion. "He played some great shots and was most un-lucky to be given out before he produced an innings that none of us will forget."

HE Football Association has launched an advertising campaign at women. Unconvinced by the Premier League survey of fans which revealed a significant in-crease in female fans — the significance being lost in selfconfessed suspect methodology — the FA has full-page ads in Marie Claire, Cosmopoli-tan, Options and Elle. Aimed at ticket sales for Euro '96, it shows a woman superim-posed with "How can I lie back and think of England when Venables hasn't final-

ised the squad?"
Ailsa Park, a Stockport fan and one of the models used in the campaign, says: "It posi-tions women in a more serious way. As for Euro '96, it provides the perfect opportunity for everyone to see quality teams." She has shown her know-how by getting tickets for Anfield, not Wembley.

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#### gling with pleasure ever since sent they realised that the twice wild. sent the entire French team **England need** no French

Robert Armstrong in Paris

incentives

ONUS systems may Suit some squads in the Five Nations Championship now that rugby is pro-fessional, but Will Carling said yesterday that England would not need the incentive of a win bonus to give their best performance in tomorrow's opener against France at the Parc des Princes. The importance of the tournament would be sufficient motivation for last year's Grand Slam winners, the England

captain said. Members of the England squad will receive a flat rate of about £25,000 each for the full season of international matches but the French have agreed a basic rate of around £19,000 with an additional

some £39,000 for the season. Ireland and Scotland, who meet in Dublin tomorrow, are also paying by results on top debut against France in 1988 of a standard basic rate, which ended in a 10-9 defeat in would earn their players about £24,000 each for four championship wins. Wales, who open their Five Nations campaign against England at Twickenham on February 3, have adopted a sliding scale of payments heavily weighted towards results, because of

their money shortage.

Apart from England, who have won three Grand Slams in the Nineties without pay-for-play, the championship contenders will each get only half their maximum potential earnings if they end up with the wooden spoon. There is no yardstick for determining whether win bonuses bring the best out of rugby union players. The Scots have won two Grand Slams since 1984 without paying a penny whereas France, who have paid their players handsomely for decades, won only to win and we'll hone Slam over the same very, very positive."

Though Carling is among the wealthiest players in Europe as a spin-off from his rugby success, there is no reason to doubt the sincerity of his indifference to win bonuses. "The Five Nations is still a great tournament to play in, even though the World Cup has now become the main competition in which to measure yourself," he said. 'The Five Nations has its own special atmo-sphere and a number of other

countries would love to be involved in a similar event." He said that France, for him, still represented the ulti-mate challenge in the north-ern hemisphere, notwithstanding England's four successive wins in Paris dur-ing the Nineties. "I am always very keen to win against any £1,000 to £4,000 for each game, depending on the outcome. A Grand Slam, together with their recent Test victory over New Zealand, would earn and the threat of the French each French international tends to bring out the best in us. You cannot go to Paris doubting your own ability."

Paris, a setback that was not repeated until France won their World Cup third-place play-off in Pretoria last June. "We were taught a World Cup lesson that day," he said, "but it was a different type of rugby and a very different at-mosphere to what you get in the Five Nations. Still, it's nice not to be favourites for Saturday, as we have been for the past five or six years. We have the chance to rise above

Despite France's World Cup victory Carling insisted they still feared England. "They have some of the best running backs in the world, players like Saint-André, Ntamack and Sadourny, and they can pose a different kind of threat, But I think they'll mainly play a kicking game against us. They're desperate to win and we'll have to be

#### Gallagher gets the green light

rugby union after a spell in league, is one of nine full internationals in a power-ful Ireland A side who face Scotland A at Donnybrook

The London-born Gal-lagher's attempts to play competitive rugby in Eng-land have been blocked by in Ireland's side.

enter the second

JOHN GALLAGHER, the former All Blacks full-back who has returned to rugby union after a spell in league, is one of nine full bench against Leinster last

month.

He joins the other full caps Conor O'Shea, Sean McCabill, Niall Woods, Alain Rolland, Paul Wallace, Davy Tweed, Victor Costello and Anthony Foley

## Ca Clydesdale Bank

#### **BASE RATE**

Clydesdale Bank PLC announces that with effect from close of business on 18th January 1996 its Base Rate has been reduced from 6.5% to 6.25% per annum.



## Two centres in their element

lan Borthwick on the young partnership France's fans call fire and water and who are unfazed by Carling and England

French rugby players. They have, it appears, no respect for their elders, and, if Thomas Castaignede is any indication, even less for es-tablished rituals on the field

of play. Playing his first Test against Romania last autumn, the diminutive centre from Toulouse was the smallest and youngest man on the pitch, but this did not prevent him from shouting and order-ing his team-mates around as to the manner born. Until, that is, Philippe Benetton, the Tricolores' veteran flanker and pack-leader, came up for a quiet word: "Listen sonny, a word of advice. Don't ever talk to me like that."

Scarcely a month later Cas-taignède, brimming with conlidence, was at it again. Although at least this time his impertinence was directed at the opposition, as he and his midfield partner Richard Dourthe took on the All Blacks' renowned centre pairing of Walter Little and Frank Bunce in the first Test in Tou-Bunce in the first Test in Tou-louse. Playing with an aston-ishing audacity and bravado. the two young whipper-snappers called in to fill the gaps left by Philippe Sella and Thierry Lacroix showed, de-spite only 41 years and four caps between them, precious little deference to the presti-gious remutation of their on-

John Shaw replaces Russel

Garcia, who has stomach trouble, as Great Britain face

India today in their first match of the Olympic qualify-ing tournament here, writes Pat Rowley in Barcelona. Gar-

cia will be missed as the alter-

native corner striker to Ca-

Hockey

lum Giles.

THERE is a most dis-turbing tendency in the new generation of battle off the ball.

"What do you mean we lacked respect for the All Blacks?" exclaims Castaignède. "They did not exactly respect us either, and if things did get a little carried away it was because they were continually trying to provoke us. They knew we were young, and they were just trying to intimidate us. So Richard decided it was

time to sort them out." He does not mean to be dis-courteous, it is just part of his natural self-confidence. At 5ft 9in and under 12 stone, the plucky Castaignède moves with that fluid quality reminiscent of Didier Codorniou and other quicksilver centres who have become a rarity in inter-national rugby. With his imp-ish smile and his eyes gleaming with the permanent glint of mischief, he looks more like a atter-day Tintin embarked on a new adventure with the faithful Captain Haddock.

Last year he and Dourthe sat together in the stands at Twickenham, never believing that 12 months later they would be playing together against England. "I just take

south-west of France, Castaig | rather play alongside him nede in Mont-de-Marsan | than against him." Dourthe in nearby Dax, and from the age of five or slx they regularly played against each other for their clubs. "Even then he was a handful on the field. And of course he always used to beat me," muses Castaignède. Dourthe, the son of another

uncompromising French cen tre, Claude Dourthe, has quickly won himself a reputa tion for being hot-headed and indisciplined. Laurent Ca-bannes, the French flanker, likens the pair to fire and water: Dourthe the fire, and the smooth unflappable Cas taignede the water. "I know Richard like the back of my hand and I know that he can be very quick-tempered and belligerent. He has been like that ever since I've known him, so it's just up to me to keep him under control on the field. There's nothing really nasty in what he does but, that said, I would still



Squash

Del Harris, the England No. 1 gained prompt consolation for failing to regain the British national title when he beat the new holder, Peter Nicol of Scotland, in four games in a national Super League match, writes Richard Jago.

Netherlands are favourites

Netherlands are favourites

Apawanish tournament in

New York, where an all-Canathe top three places in this dian quarter-final saw Gary eight-team round-robin event. | Waite beat Jonathan Power in | world No. 14, beat Steve Davis | Hall from February 12-25.

2hr 52min, outlasting the previous record of 2hr 46min for a world circuit match set by Jahangir Khan of Pakistan and Gamal Awad of Egypt. Motor Sport

France's former world rally champion Didier Auriol is to join this year's holder, Britatn's Colin McRae, as 555 Subaru become a four-car team this season. Sweden's Kenneth Harris's England colleague Eriksson and Italy's Pier Chris Walker won the Liatti are the other drivers. Eriksson and Italy's Piero

> Snocker Tony Drago of Malta, the

Drago's 6-2 win earned him £11,000. The finalists needed a police escort out of the arena after spending 90 minutes signing autographs for a crowd of 2,300. Bowls fever has hit Preston, where in the first week a

Since their arrival in the France squad their infectious

enthusiasm and youthful

enthusiasm and youthful ebullience have rocked some of the older players out of their set ways. "Having guys like Thomas and Richard inside me suddenly makes me feel old," quips Philippe Saint-André, the captain. "They have brought a lot of freshness to the team and to

freshness to the team and to

the way we play. But they still

have to maintain their self-control and discipline, espe-

cially against Carling and

fly-half, Castaignède has also proved his worth as a goal-

kicker, with a 55-metre penal-ty against New Zealand and a

crucial drop goal for Toulouse

in the recent European Cup final against Cardiff to his

credit.

One of the key players in Toulouse's epic victory, Castaignède, who turns 21 on Sunday, has already amassed more cups and trophies than others win in a lifetime. Tou-

louse were champions in 1994

and 95 and he also won the

French junior club champion-

ship two years in a row in the

red-and-black Stade Toulou-

sain jersey. Castaignėde and Dourthe

will stand together tomorrow and refuse once again to kow-

tow to their distinguished elders. They are, apparently, afraid of nothing. "It's not quite like that," points out Caistaignède. "We support

one another and encourage one another so much on the field that it just boosts our

confidence. And when I've got Richard beside me I feel much

for the first time in 10 at-

tempts to win the Guangzhou Masters, writes Clive Everton.

Equally at ease at centre or

England.

record number of more than 12,000 tickets, nearly a sell-out, were sold for the Churchill Insurance World Indoor Championship at the Guild

#### every match as it comes. I can still hardly believe that I am playing for France, so I am simply taking advantage of ach opportunity and living it to the full," says Castaignède, who has known Dourthe virgious reputation of their op-posite numbers, with Bunce tually all his life. They both grew up in the Castaignède . . . the rapier Spain and Belgium should also qualify, with Canada the danger to those two. Sport in brief

elish. He is an eager new No. 10 to the ancient manor born. In Gregor Townsend, Scotland field another in Dub

Scotland lead and the firm wales as well, in a fort-night when they open their championship drapes, with their spindly man-child Arwei

Thomas, who by all accounts looked the right stuff at Arms

three grand playmakers of the

legendary line — prepared to be conductor, orchestrator,

first violin, cymbals, pro-ducer, focus-cameraman, edi-

shots and carry the can (and

tor and director, to call the

gitmpse in the trio recalls a conversation between that

duo of the same lore, Mike Gib-

son and Barry John, during the long flight with the Lions to New Zealand in 1971.

"Have you noticed.

remarked Mike, "that how

your opposing fly-half acts in the couple of minutes before kick-off informs you with cer-

tainty if it's going to be a jolly

good game or not?"
"Exactly," enthused Barry,

leaping to the theme, "you just need to see their team run on to the field to tell which is the

fly-half. See how he demands

wirls it about, atwitch with

delight and glee and anticipa

tion and strut . . On the other

back ambles out, slings one desultory pass to a mate and then poutingly waits for kick-

off with his arms folded and

eyes dull, it's 99 per cent cer-tain all of us might as well go

old boot on the tiller, but for

France, Lacroix pulls on the No. 10 jersey which, had he

worn it at the World Cup,

might have won the whole thing for the Allez cats. You

can make out a case that Dey-

laud at fly lost it for them, so

out of sorts and shoe-shuffling

glum was he, so flour-faced and

slack-gowned a pierrot come-dian it was as if Tati was direc-

tor for laughs, not Berbizier. Methinks Lacroix will be an

altogether crisper cross for England to crack.

Le Parc and lovely Lans-

downe are daunting for visitors. But what a nice weekend

line by the former England

stalwart Jeff Probyn, recalling

his first match in Paris in 1986.

As he tremulously entered the

60,000 French, mate, just think

of the 20 million in front of the

telly back home." Précisement.

raucous bearpit, his mentor Paul Rendall told the tyro:

'Don't worry about the

home there and then."

hand, if the guy with 10 on his

OT all kids' stuff. For

Ireland, doughty Eric

the Good keeps his hand and uperring

the ball and twiddles and

mix the metaphors!).

Park on Tuesday. Oh, for them to endure a

# SportsGuardian

of schertain

pleashure

Frank Keating

mistresses, hotels, hip-flasks,

and various bars, boulevards.

with friends whom you last left

shibilant shertainties of "Be

Alors, bejasus, och-aye, and

Those superior souls of rug-

by's southern hemisphere

Europe's Five Nations. Sheet

green-eyed jealousy. At first

time of asking the big ones

down there have now signer

up for their own annual Thi

Nations Championship, It will

be nothing like the same. You

which must be matured in the cask of umpteen decades. Like

This season's champion-ship, which kicks off tomor-

row in Paris and Dublin, looks

eason promises riches when

the French boast being brim-full and in the trim and as pre-

knights once at Agincourt —

"let us but blow on them, the

vapour of our valour o'erturns

Englishmen" — and a new Ire-land team fancy their chances

than just a gorgeous clamor-

For the first time in yonks

England gingerly tiptoe to

might yet serve them well.

They have nothing to lose.

Two true chevaliers of Rng-

land, Carling and Guscott

both turned 30 last year. They are marked tomorrow by two

NGLAND's supporters

jeered at Twickenham last month when the

callow copains of barely 20. There's a game in a match for

and did not run in 60 points

against Western Samoa, but

tomorrow the visiting throng

will be pin-drop silent and genuflecting in prayer if Paul Grayson goes for goal in the

last minute for a win by 3-0.

Grayson represents another eason why this latest series is

ous pessimi

to have all the competitive makings with knobs on. Any

the Five Nations

shure to shee you next year"

what-ho. Here we go again. The Five Nations. Le weekend

restaurants for rendezvous

## Pay-TV fears mount over **Bruno fight**

Andrew Culf on Murdoch plans to charge | Bruno camp for a share of the £20 to watch showdown with Mike Tyson

increasing domination of televised terday but was understood to sport intensified be strongly in favour of the sport intensified yesterday as it emerged that his satellite station may charge viewers up to £20 to watch Frank Bruno's world heavyweight title fight against Mike Tyson. BSkyB is considering intro-

ducing pay-per-view to Brit-ish TV for the World Boxing Council fight in Las Vegas on March 16. The move fuelled concern at Westminster about the way in which Murdoch's satellite channel is using its inexhaustible chequebook to buy up Britain's sporting

Last night Jack Cunningham, the shadow National Heritage secretary, who has already pledged Labour to toughen protection for eight top-listed sports events, ex-pressed alarm at BSkyB's latest moves. "Millions of people in Brit-

ain are increasingly concerned about the future of sport on TV," he said. "That is why Labour is determined to address the whole issue of televised sport in the Broad-

A spokesman for Sky Sports would not confirm reports that the Bruno fight is to be used to pioneer pay-per-view technology. "No deci-sion has been taken on pay-per-view and when it might be launched and what kind of programmes. Pay-per-view is something for the future," he

Despite BSkyB's reluctance to confirm the plan, the head

lan Katz in New York on the rise of

US sport's least popular medium

AY-PER-VISW has be-come a dirty three-legged word to Ameri-

can sports fans ever since

the industry grew out of closed-circuit television

broadcasts in the early

Recognised as money-spin-ners for promoters in the Seventies, pay-per-view

broadcasts were first con-fined to boxing, wrestling and minority US interests

such as soccer, but main-stream sports have begun to

abandon the free airwaves.

In recent seasons several NBA basketball teams, in-cluding the Chicago Bulls and the Phoenix Suns, have

signed deals with pay-per-view companies to screen

games not shown on free TV.
These games are presented
as a bonus to the usual
schedule of televised

cally offered a "season

ticket" rate for all games. but the flight to pay-per-view is the subject of endless

rounder Craig White as an

opener as they seek to restore

their battered morale in

today's sixth one-day interna-

tional against South Africa in

s and fans are typi-

HE furore over pay-per-view. Frank Warren, Rupert Murdoch's Bruno's promoter, could not be contacted for comment yes-

> experiment.
> Bruno's victory over Oliver
> McCall at Wembley that gave him the title last September attracted a record satellite audience of 3.43 million, with estimates that more than 10 million watched in pubs and

BSkyB's management is understood to be considering

'People here are becoming increasingly concerned for the future of sport on television'

a number of hurdles that would have to be overcome, including a potential backlash from Sky subscribers, who already pay more than £20 a month

The legal ramifications of introducing pay-per-view to a channel for which customers already subscribe are also questions as to whether BSkyB's subscriber-management centre in Livingston, Scotland would be able to cope with the strain of pro-cassing payments as soon as

Watch the money-eating

complaints on sports page across the United States.

Only college football

games are shown on pay-per-view — the end-of-sea-

son bowls are still screened free — but an NFL experi-

ment with satellite TV is

seen as a prelude to a move

to the more lucrative form deasting.

Boxing, however, remains

the biggest draw. Mike Tyson's 89-second comeback

against Peter McNeeley last

year was bought by 1.5 mil-lion households, eclipsing

the record of 1.4 million set

by the 1991 Evander Holy-field v George Foreman

fight.
The Tyson fight cost pay-

per-viewers about \$30 (£19.50) a minute, poor

value for money, and one consequence was a backlash which saw the promoter

Don King choose a free-TV deal with Rupert Murdoch's

Fox network for Tyson's following bout with Buster

perky late-innings hitting ear-lier in the seven-match series.

which England have already

lost through going 4-1 down after their five-wicket defeat in Durban on Wednesday.

There was no room in the

The wicketkeeper Jack Russell is to be given the chance last night for Dermot Reeve. ger injury.

White steps up to open for England

George Melly, book review

NGLAND will experiment of batting at No. 4 after some with the Yorkshire all perky late-innings hitting ear-

additional revenue generated by pay-per-view when he fights Tyson. The American's first fight after release from prison grossed more than \$105 million.

Pay-per-view, in which a special decoder charge card has to be used to unscramble the picture, has been common practice in the United States for a decade and is likely soon to become a routine feature of Sky Sports, particularly for Premiership football.

With the advent of digital satellite technology — provid-ing more than 100 channels within the next year — the station could screen every Premiership game, charging individual access fees for

BSkyB's faith in boxing was underlined by the audience response to Bruno's title fight. Warren, who has put together a two-year boxing station, has claimed that the Wembley contest, which reached 82.5 per cent of the satellite station's subscribers. and another involving the World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion Prince Naseem Hamed, "are the two biggest programmes ever shown on Sky, and not

just sports programmes". Warren said at a sport and television seminar this week: "I was with ITV for 14 years but what neither ITV nor the BBC was prepared to do was to commit money to the grassroots development of sport which is what Sky is doing." The BBC, for years the TV home of boxing, has virtually turned its back on the sport. Where once it televised even the semi-finals of the Ama teur Boxing Association stein, has previously hinted Discussions are also taking now reduced to nine minutes that boxing would be ideal for place over pressure from the of highlights from the finals.

The appeal of pay-per-view to fighters and pro-

moters is easy to fathom: Tyson got \$50 million (£32 million) for the broadcast

rights to the McNeeley fight compared with less

than \$10 million from Fox.

which vary from \$9.95 (£6.50) for a college football game to \$44.95 (£29) for the

Tyson-McNeeley fight, can

be paid by credit card or added to a subscriber's

Mark Ramprakash or Mike

Watkinson. All three must

now regard their chances of

making England's World Cup

14 as being very slim.
Phil DeFreitas is the seam

bowler rested, and Alec Stew-

She cites a chat show where a participant coming out as gay was cheered,

admiration, but bisexuals are seen as criminals, creeping out to roll in the

while another, declaring himself bisexual, was booed. The explanation is not

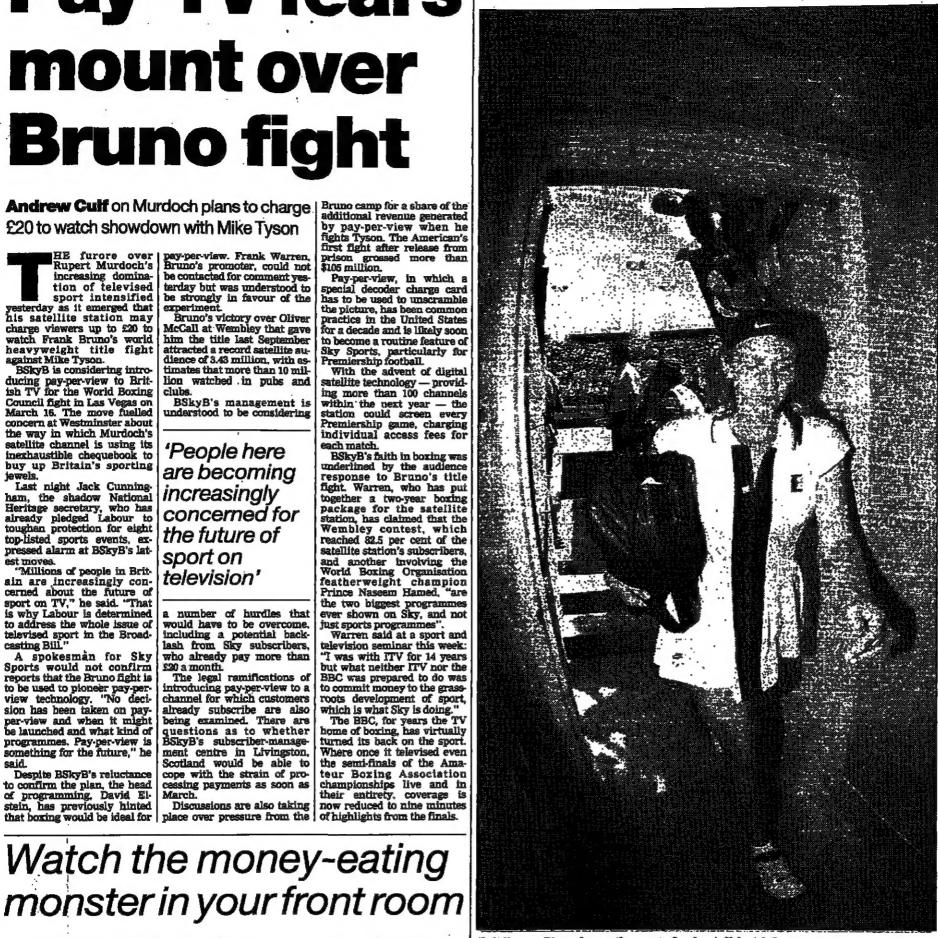
difficult to find. Since Aids, homosexuals may be viewed with sympathy, even

gay trough and then sneaking back to infect their innocent wives and children.

art is unavailable for the day-

monthly bill.

## CHAMPION OUT OF AUSTRALIAN OPEN Weekend full



Exit line . . . Pierce leaves the court after her 'off-day' defeat PHOTOGRAPH: TOMMY HINDLEY

## Pierce blunders to the earliest exit in 25 years

Despite the spectacular flop of a special pay-perview "Triplecast" from the 1992 Olympics, pay TV has continued to grow rapidly. David Irvine in Melbourne

helped by improvements in technology which have made it easier to order pro-grammes. More than 23 million households are now O ONE can erase Mary Pierce's name from the Grand Slam roll of honregaled with adverts for who have won the women's singles titles in the last eight pay-per-view programmes n several so-called 'barker" channels, up years, the Australian cham-pion of just 12 months ago from under 2 million in 1983. more than any other, should count her blessings at finding herself in such company. Viewers can request films

or sporting events by tele-phoning their cable or sat-Yesterday the first French woman to win a major singles ellite company or ordering directly from special championship since open ten-nis started, looked anything ote-control units. Fees



but a champion as she took her leave in the second round at Flinders Park — the earliest exit any holder had made in over a quarter of a century Pierce, showing appalling incompetence, was outplayed 6-4, 6-4 by the player ranked 51 in the world, Elena Likhot eva of Alma-Ata in Kazakhstan. It had been an off-day, Pierce said.

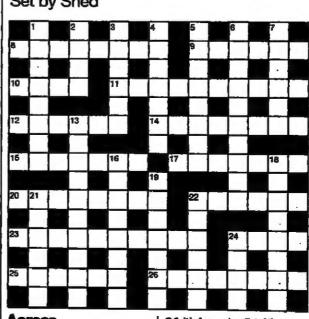
Always a one-dimensional player with a heavy reliance on her pounding forehand, Pierce looked more like a novce than a champion as she floundered her way to defeat. Her total inability to change her tactics or even play with prudence was bewildering.

Sadly her post-match com-ments were in keeping with her performance. "There is always another year," she said. "And this gives me more time to get ready for my next tournament." That is in Paris, when Steffi Graf is expected to make her comeback — and by then Pierce will have fallen out of the Top Ten. All told, her 35 unforced

errors made up almost 50 per cent of the points won by the patient but meticulous Likhovtseva. At 20, her career is rich in promise and she made it clear that she can now live with the power players.

Likhoviseva . . . meticulous Becker battle, page 13 **Guardian Crossword No 20.553** 

Set by Shed



Across

- 8 Surrealist to snoop around and get knotted (8)
- 9 Empty grave featured in a
- 10 Believes taking the vail
- repelled 22dns (4) 11 Merry exchange about non-
- U writer and conductor (10)
- 12 Annoyance at outset of the
- 14 Audio equipment, etc, return
- ed without advantage (8)
- 15 Powerful in past, present and future, say (7)
- 17 Alternatively, be twice 10 in Uganda (7)
- 20 Gin and offal from Cologne We consumed (3)
- 23 Have second thoughts
- 22 Norman lore? (6) about Bishop flanking City

- 25 Subtly divest of cost (6) 26 Faithless woman's wanton disgraces lacking force (8)
- Down 1 Yorick, say: firm in the middle (8)
  - 2 Deep sea dweller (4)
  - 3 Rock and stake used for killing people (6) 4 Counsel one finishing up
    - bigoted (7) 5 Cheese from the hill getting number below par (8) 6 1s keep 10 confused by
    - jargonese 13 (10) 7 Order what's in the cream (6)
    - 13 Men due, perhaps, to receive scheme for non-22dns (10)
    - 16 Southern playwright keeping second one on the

18 Ordered to swallow jam. having obstruction (8) 19 Court composer first to see outcome in court (7) 21 Feel bad about the length

of the bedchamber (6) 22 Frying-pan keeping king and queen in hand (6)

24 After what 6 are after (4)

Solution temorrow

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